

# THE CHURCH A BEAUTIFUL MESS

A STUDY ON 1 CORINTHIANS



**A Beautiful Mess**  
**God-Given Growth**  
**1 Corinthians 3:1-11**  
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## **1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

**1 Paul, called as an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Sosthenes our brother: 2 To the church of God at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called as saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord—both their Lord and ours. 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**



## **1 Corinthians 1:4-9**

**4 I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in him in every way, in all speech and all knowledge. 6 In this way, the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you, 7 so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; you were called by him into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**



**Every child of God,  
and therefore, every  
church of God is  
called toward  
growth!**



## **Driving Questions**

**Is the growth and success of my life, family, and church upon the foundation of MY priorities of worldliness or is it upon God's Wisdom (Christ)? And if it is upon Christ, then what does building upon the foundation of Christ look like?**



**1. The hindrance of God's growth and vibrancy within a local church is the willful spiritual immaturity of its members living in WORLD-liness.**

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4**

1 For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, since you were not yet ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready, 3 because you are still worldly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not worldly and behaving like mere humans? 4 For whenever someone says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not acting like mere humans?



## **1 Corinthians 2:13-14**

**13 We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. 14 But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually.**



**2. The channel of God's growth and vibrancy within a church is the willful spiritual growth of its members living in GOD-liness.**

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4**

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building.





## **1 Corinthians 3:10-11**

**10 According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one is to be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ.**