



AS WE BUILD...

2:6-3:23

THERE MUST BE
NO DIVISIONS
AMONG US

In our first lesson, the apostle Paul laid a solid foundation: we are saints under construction and our faith must rest in the power of God (1:1-2:5), a theme continued in 2:6-7.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

We might dig more into the rest of chapter 2 as a class. For now, let's focus in on chapter 3 where Paul emphasizes that as we build, there must be no divisions among us.

¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Taking a look at 2:1-16, what is the big idea being taught by Paul?
- ▶ Why would Paul describe what he was sharing as "a secret and hidden wisdom of God" (2:7)? How is it different from the "wisdom of this age" (2:6)?
- ▶ Why couldn't Paul address the saints in Corinth "as spiritual people" (3:1)?
- ▶ In everyday terms, what does it mean to be "of the flesh" (3:3) or "merely human" (3:4)?
- ▶ How would you rephrase the principle taught in 3:6-7 in your own words?

plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- In what ways are we "God's fellow workers," "God's field," and God's building" (3:9)?
- In your own words, how would you summarize Paul's point in 3:10-15?
- If we are saints under construction, in what ways is Jesus Christ our foundation?
- We get the impression that what Paul is saying in 3:16-17 is really, really important, but *what* is he saying?
- In what way does Paul expect me, even today, to "become a fool" (3:18)?
- We are "saints under construction," so what do we need to remember from 2:6-3:23?