

1 Corinthians 3 Discussion Questions

* Wesley opened the sermon by asking: “Are we building on the foundation of Christ in theory or in practice?” What do you think is the difference between those two?
* Why does Paul call the Corinthians “infants in Christ”?
  + What are the signs of spiritual immaturity?
  + Wesley noted that the Corinthians were relying more on their own strength than on the Spirit. Do you ever find yourself doing the same? What are the dangers of that?
* The sermon described this as “failing to thrive” spiritually. How do we sometimes settle for natural ability rather than supernatural growth?
  + How do you measure worldly success against spiritual growth?
  + Read Galatians 5:22–23. Which fruit of the Spirit do you see most clearly in your life? Where do you feel stagnant?
  + How can you rely more fully on Jesus to grow in the areas where you feel weak?
* In verses 5–9, Paul explains that God is the one who gives growth.
* What roles do Paul and Apollos play in spiritual development?
  + Why is it important to see spiritual leaders as “servants” and not saviors?
  + The sermon noted how “ministers had become mascots” in Corinth. Where do you see that today? What is the danger of that?
* Paul describes various building materials—gold, silver, hay, straw. What do these symbolize?
  + What does it mean to build a life that will endure God’s evaluation?
* What does it look like practically to “build with gold” in this season?
* Verses 16–17 declare that we are God’s temple. What does it mean that God’s Spirit dwells in the church?
  + How should this truth shape the way we speak about and serve the church?
* Wesley challenged us to avoid building the church on “personality or entertainment.” What does it look like to build with Christ instead?
* Verses 18–23 call the church to live with gospel clarity. How does the gospel free us from comparison, competition, and pride?
* Wesley said, “Your Judgment Day is already in the past.”
  + How does living from a secure verdict change the way we relate to others in the church?
* What kind of “materials” do you think you’ve been building with this past year?
* What’s one area where God might be calling you to grow—not just in activity, but in depth?
* “Only what’s done for Christ will last.” What’s one step you can take this week to build more intentionally on Christ?