

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth
December 4th, 2022
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Building God's House (1 Corinthians 3:10-23)

"Let each one take care how he builds..." (v. 10)

1. Who is called to build? (v. 10)

2. Why must we build carefully? (vv. 16-17)

3. How can we build something that lasts? (vv. 14-15, 17-23)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What's the most satisfying project you've ever completed with your own hands? How long did it take?

Going Deeper:

3. How does Paul describe his role in building the church at Corinth (vv. 10-11; compare vv. 5-6)? What was the "*master builder*" (v. 10) responsible to do? What foundation does Paul lay for the church? Why was it critical for the Corinthians to understand that Christ was the one and only foundation for their church (v. 11; compare 1 Corinthians 2:2)?

4. According to Paul, "*each one*" is to "*take care*" in how they build God's church (v. 10). Who is this exhortation primarily directed towards (compare v. 9)? Why is this verse relevant for every member of the church? Compare Ephesians 4:11-16. According to Paul, what does each member of the church do to build up Christ's body (see vv. 15-16)? Why is it critical for us to grasp this?

5. Read verse 16. According to Paul, what *kind* of building are we constructing? Why is it important that we guard against interpreting this verse individualistically? How does the imagery of the temple shed light on verses 14-15 (compare 1 Chronicles 29:1-9)? How does this change our view of other believers, and our ministry to them?

6. Paul says that those who build God's church with shoddy materials will suffer loss, and only be saved "*as through fire*" (v. 15)? What "*loss*" will such believers suffer? How shouldn't we understand this verse? What is Paul describing here?

7. Paul says that those who build with quality materials will receive a reward (v. 14; compare v. 8)? What kind of reward will we receive (compare 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)?

Application:

8. Jeff laid out a few principles from 1 Corinthians 3:14, 18-23 on how to make an eternal investment in the people around us. Which of these principles stood out to you? Why?

9. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?