

## **The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians**

### **Sermon Notes**

#### **Vital Signs** (1 Corinthians 3:1-9)

##### **Spiritual Illness**

"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men? – 1 Cor. 3:1-4

##### **Spiritual Health**

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." – I Cor. 3:5-9

### **How to Become Spiritually Healthy**

### **For Further Thought and Discussion**

#### **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

#### **Going Deeper**

2. Please read 1 Cor. 3:1-4. Why does Paul question the Corinthians' spiritual health? What does Paul mean by "you are still fleshly" and "are you not mere men"? How does Paul know the Corinthians are fleshly?
3. What do you observe about spiritual illness from vs. 1-4.
4. What has made the difference in your own spiritual growth between the times you were growing and the time when you were not?
5. Please read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. As you contrast vs. 5-9 with vs. 1-4, how is Paul's perspective different than the Corinthians'? From this contrast, how would you define spiritual health? Would you define yourself as spiritually healthy or ill? Why?
6. What is one thing you could do to labor with God rather than apart from Him?
7. How can you become more spiritually healthy?

### **Application**

What is one thing you will apply from this discussion?