

## Stop Acting Like Babies

1 Corinthians, Vol. 4

HBC 10/23/19

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

Here's a picture of the canal across the isthmus of Corinth, with a cruise ship passing through. The ship is 74 feet wide and the narrowest point of the canal is 78 feet. Video of the trip is available: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVFpb2N4i\\_M&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVFpb2N4i_M&feature=youtu.be)



### Introduction: The Two Kinds of People

1 Corinthians 2:14-16: *But a **natural man** does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he **who is spiritual** appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Romans 8:9: *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

If you are a Christian:

- Your spiritual eyes are opened (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- You are born again (1 Peter 1:23)
- You are a child of God by adoption (Romans 8:15-17)
- You are no longer condemned (Romans 8:1)
- You are a saint (1 Corinthians 1:1)
- You are redeemed (Titus 2:14)
- You are declared righteous (Romans 3:24)
- You have peace with God (Romans 5:1)
- You are saved (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- You are reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)
- You are forgiven (Colossians 1:13)
- You are sealed (Ephesians 4:30)
- You are a citizen of Christ's Kingdom (Colossians 1:14)
- You are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- You are given a spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 12:1-7)
- You are a member of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)
- You are guaranteed glorification (Romans 8:29-30)

Ephesians 1:3: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,***

Perhaps the most complete description of what it means to be a Christian is:

2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

To be a Christian is to be **transformed**. Think of yourself by analogy to a smart phone.

From the text so far, we know that a person who hasn't come to Christ:  
**Is Natural** - He or she is made of flesh  
**Does not accept the things of the Spirit of God**  
**Believes the things of God are foolishness**  
**Cannot understand because he or she does not have the Holy Spirit**

On the other hand, our text describes a Christian:  
**He or she is spiritual** - Belongs to and actuated by the Holy Spirit  
**He or she appraises all things**  
**He or she is appraised by no man** - This will be explained more in chapter 4

From elsewhere in Paul's writings:  
**He or she recognizes the authority of the word of God** (1 Corinthians 14:37)  
**He or she is able to restore one who falls into sin** (Galatians 6:1)

## I. **Attack Your Carnality** (1-9)

1 Corinthians 3:1-3: *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?*

Note the difference between **men of flesh** and **infants in Christ**.

1 Corinthians 3:4-6: *For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men? 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.*

1 Corinthians 3:7-9: *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.*

The proper attitude toward all who teach and preach is to see them as **servants** of God, **instruments He uses** to accomplish His will in the lives of others. We are **fellow-workers**. Hierarchy is not nearly as important as working together.

## II. **Your Works Will Be Tested** (10-15)

1 Corinthians 3:10-15: *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

This passage speaks of what a believer builds upon the foundation, which is Christ. Everything done by a Christian will be evaluated, with two results: Everything **worthless** will be burned up, and everything **of value** will be rewarded.

What, **according to the context**, is the best interpretation of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and straw?

What is judged? What is the outcome of this judgment?

**The Béma Seat**

1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10

Only rewards are given (no condemnation)

This takes place after the rapture

It takes place in the heavenly realm

The Judge is Christ

The subjects are all believers

The assessment is personal and individual

Motives will be revealed

All bad things are burned away

The result is rewards

Apparent rewards can be lost; Unforeseen rewards can be given

- I. **Attack Your Carnality** (1-9)
- II. **Your Works Will Be Tested** (10-15)
- III. **You Belong To God** (16-23)

1 Corinthians 3:16-17: *Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.*

What is the temple of God made from? From the context, what does it mean to "destroy the temple of God?"

1 Corinthians 3:18-20: *Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"; and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS."*

1 Corinthians 3:21-23: *So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.*

**Descriptions of Christians in 1 Corinthians so far:**

1:2 - **Saints**

1:2 - **All who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**

1:24 - **Those who are the called**

2:15 - **He who is spiritual**

3:23 - **You belong to Christ**