

LIVE THE OPPOSITE LIFE

AUG 13, 2023

WORSHIP

Praise Him Forever, Lord You Are Good, Firm Foundation (He Won't), In Christ Alone (On Christ the Solid Rock), Cornerstone

WELCOME

Was there a time in your life where you stood out because you behaved in a way totally different from the rest of the group you were a part of?

WORD

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

(READ UNTIL VERSE 23 FOR CONTEXT)

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, [d]precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ 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 [e]the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

The church should be the opposite the world. God wants us to live a different life. 1st-century Corinth was a center of materialism, moral decadence, and "me" (self-affirmation, self-glorification (doesn't this sound like the world in the 21st century as well?). In our 1 Corinthians study, we learn that the Corinthian believers were not providing the contrast to the world.

Division was the first issue Paul devotes 25% of his letter to address in the church. The other issue facing the Corinthian church was that there were those who were engaging in sexual immorality. Sadly, these are still true of the church of Jesus Christ today. Church members were suing each other in court. That still happens today, often in the court of public opinion: social media. Also, so much of the Corinthian church was about the self --- their behavior in the Lord's Supper, their issue with spiritual gifts, etc. So how do we live the OPPOSITE LIFE?

I. Make Jesus Your Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:10-11)

If you want to make a difference in this world in the power of the Holy Spirit, it begins by making Jesus, and no one else, as the foundation of your life. Faith and obedience cannot be separated, obeying God is the proof that Jesus is indeed our foundation (**Matthew 7:24-27**). We practice obedience to His words in the calm seasons of life so that we build a lifestyle of joyful obedience and continue to obey Him in the storms of life. Every day, we need to cultivate the obedient life. That's why we need the power of the Holy Spirit.

If someone who claims to be a Christian but habitually sins, the question needs to be asked: "Am I even a follower of Jesus to begin with? Have I really placed my faith in Him or not?". The Bible identifies Jesus as the "cornerstone", the chief stone of an edifice that all the other stones have to align with. Jesus as our Cornerstone means our thinking, emotions and actions in everyday life are all aligned to Him. We hear His words and put them into practice --- the proof that He is our foundation.

II. Build for Eternity (1 Corinthians 3:12-13)

Two categories of building materials that Paul talks about are opposites; gold, silver and precious stones are of extremely high value and don't burn up. While wood, hay and straw are of low value and they burn up quite easily. A day of judgment is coming for believers, not for salvation but about how we lived our lives on earth; it will be a "testing of fire". How we live today will have eternal consequences on that day. It is not the quantity, but the quality of each man's work that will be tested (**v.13**). It is about the motive of our hearts in serving Jesus.

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The judgment of believers will be based on how we lived our lives (**2 Corinthians 5:9-10**), each one will give account for our lives. How are we building our lives? Is it with things of eternal value (God's Word, daily obedience, making disciples, loving others, etc.). Even in our eating and drinking, we must do for the glory of God. Or are we sadly building our lives with the opposite (materialism, self-centeredness, giving in to lust, putting anything or anyone above God, etc.)? We must carefully examine how we are building on our foundation. Our Heavenly Father will reward those whose work will stand the test of fire on that day. Following Jesus will cost you everything. But to NOT follow Jesus also comes with an astronomical price called OPPORTUNITY COST. Let's build with gold, silver and precious stones for the glory of God!

III. Know You Are God's Temple (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

The "you" used here is plural, Paul addressed the believers collectively as the temple of God. The Corinthian church did not have a temple but gathered for fellowship in homes. They may have heard of Solomon's temple, etc. and have pagan temples in their city so what Paul said must have been especially meaningful to them. The temple of God is precious—you are precious to God. We are the holy temple of God, we are set apart for a purpose and for a person. We are set apart for a Person—the Christ, the Rock on whom we stand. The most amazing aspect of Solomon's temple was not how it looked, but what took place there; the glory of the Lord filled the place (**2 Chronicles 7:1-2**). When we live our everyday lives, does the glory of God shine through us? Can others see Christ in us? We are set apart as His people, to announce and talk about who God is to the world (**1 Peter 2:9-10**). We need to constantly ask ourselves how we can glorify God in every situation.

IV. Be A "Fool" for Christ (1 Corinthians 3:18-23)

The wisdom of the world is foolishness to God. In **Luke 12**, Jesus gives a parable that illustrates the wisdom of the world which is opposite God's wisdom. We don't want God to call us a fool on the last day of our lives, so we need to live as "fools" for Jesus, in opposition to the world's wisdom!

As we end, Paul brings us back to the issue of division. If believers are living the OPPOSITE life, then there should not be divisions among us. Instead, understand that when you have Jesus, you have everything!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Can you say that Jesus Christ is the foundation of your life? Why or why not?

2. Setting It Right.

With what materials are you building your life right now (see 1 Corinthians 3:12).

3. Living It Out.

How will you best live your life as part of God's temple?

4. What does it mean to be a fool for Christ? How will you apply it?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for friends, family and loved ones who are still building their lives on a foundation that is not Christ. Live the OPPOSITE LIFE so that others will see God's glory in you. Announce to the world who God is, share the gospel of Jesus, and serve God by starting a discipleship group, beginning with your family.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort for the Sudanese people caught in violence and conflict.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; tension in African, East Asian and Middle East countries to stop.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

MEMORY VERSE

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-11

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