



**CORNERSTONE**  
**CHURCH**

**Church Gone Wild: Week 3**  
**Churches & Temples**  
**1 Corinthians 3**  
**Pastor Derek Vreeland**

**Churches**

**1 Corinthians 3:1**

One of the primary questions that the church in Corinth is asking is, "What does it mean to be a spiritual person?"

The church had gone wild in the area of spirituality. They thought to be a spiritual person means you:

speak in tongues and experience all the gifts of the Spirit

worship your favorite superstar preacher

study up on all the best self-help books and the latest wisdom being peddled by the rock star Greek philosophers

He tells them that they are not spiritual people, but "people of the flesh."

The "flesh" refers to that part of our human nature that still wants to sin.

Paul says you are not a spiritual people living with, in and by the Holy Spirit. He says you are fleshy people living with, in and by that sinful part of your old self. Ultimately, Paul says, "You are a bunch of big BABIES!"

**1 Corinthians 3:2-3**

Paul can only feed them milk, because the whole church is acting like a bunch of big babies!

You cannot feed solid food to babes.

Have you ever been in a church where there is a bunch of fighting and thought to yourself, "You guys are acting like a bunch of babies?!?"

The fighting in Corinth was based on their misunderstanding of the church and church leadership.

**1 Corinthians 3:4**

Instead of idolizing the Greek philosophers like the non-Christians in Corinth, they began to idolize leaders in the church and they started a big fight. It was like two school kids in the playground.

**1 Corinthians 3:5**

Leaders in the church are not rock stars.

Leaders in the church are servants. (Not “slaves” but “workers.”)  
Leaders in the church are comprised of elders and deacons.  
Elders spend more time in directing.  
Deacons (team leaders) spend more time in doing.  
Both are servants to be honored, not rock stars to be worshipped.

### **1 Corinthians 3:6-8**

We have leaders that lead teams, care for people, teach kids, teach adults, lead worship, run multimedia, manage budgets and give vision to the church, but growth in the church comes from God.

The triune God gets the worship, because he causes the church to grow, not the leaders. Churches begin to get fleshy and start fighting when the focus gets off the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

When people in the church turn their focus from God to leaders, the complaints start rolling in.

### **1 Corinthians 3:9**

Not only did the Corinthians misunderstand church leadership, they also misunderstood the nature of the church itself.

The church is not the building.  
The church is not the organization.  
The church is not the leadership team.  
The church is the people.

Y'all are God's field. Y'all are God's building.

### **1 Corinthians 3:10-11**

We are working together to build God's church, which is “y'all.”  
The leadership team of elders and deacons is not the foundation.  
The pastor is not the foundation.  
There is only one true, sure foundation for the church...Jesus.

### **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

Anybody who serves in any capacity to build God's church will be rewarded for the work they do, so there is no reason to have the “my-church-leader-is-better-than-your-church-leader” fight.

## **Temples**

### **1 Corinthians 3:16**

Each Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.  
We are temples of the God. We are each dwelling places of God.

Do Y'ALL not know that Y'ALL are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in Y'ALL?

When we gather together for the purpose of worship, we create a temple, a sacred place for God to dwell.

As we think about being the church and worshiping together, there are two things on two ends of a spectrum that we keep in mind: sacredness and casualness.

On one side, we want to create sacred space, a place where we encounter God and worship him in holiness. On the other side, we want to keep a casual atmosphere that welcomes people into worship.

We need the pendulum to swing back towards sacredness.

### **1 Corinthians 3:17**

The reason we have been talking about keeping a close eye on our children and preventing them from running in the building is because we don't want to destroy God's temple. We don't want to destroy the sacredness of the sanctuary.

Sacredness is destroyed most often by one enemy—distraction. In the case of the Corinthians, jealousy and fighting became their distraction. Anything that draws our attention away from God is a distraction.

The work of worship is removing distractions.

If we destroy the sacredness of the temple, God will destroy us. Ouch!

### **1 Corinthians 3:18**

Paul is now going to sum up everything he has said up to this point.

Don't depend on wisdom that comes from this present age that leaves out God.

### **1 Corinthians 3:19-20**

The world's wisdom that leaves God out of the picture is silliness. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." (Psalm 14:1)

### **1 Corinthians 3:21**

Boasting in men and idolizing church leaders destroys the temple.

There is no division in the church, because all things belong to everyone who is a follower of Jesus—the work of the church leaders, the earth, life, death, present realities and future realities are commonly shared among all.

Why?

We all belong to the King.

### **How do we recreate the sacredness of the sanctuary?**

Humility :: a recognition of God's greatness and our smallness

Sobriety :: a solemn focus on the presence of God

Contemplation :: a gazing upon the beauty & mystery of God

Confession :: acknowledging personal sin against God

Repentance :: rethinking and re-living for God

Brokenness :: feeling God's sorrow regarding our personal sins

Openness :: allowing the Holy Spirit to penetrate our hearts

Earnestness :: loving God with all your strength

Willingness :: ready to do what God asks

Communion :: eating the bread and drinking the juice in memory of Jesus