



THAT MESSED-UP CHURCH

Week of January 28
1 Corinthians 3:16-22 ¹

Overview

Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses needs and problems specific to that local church. But for a 2000-year-old letter, many of the topics will ring true to us today as well. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism were obvious in 1st Century Corinth and are also rampant in our 21st-century world. Paul cares deeply about both right living and right thinking for Christians, and so should we. Read the letter with a view toward Paul's primary purposes: the health and "building up" of the body of Christ, and actions which further the gospel. Keeping these themes in mind will help you understand the "why" behind Paul's guidance and admonitions to the Corinthian Christians.

Group Objectives

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We are Empowered by the Spirit.*** The Holy Spirit within us enables us to live life beyond belief – a life filled with joy, purpose, and power. We live in a supernatural reality that includes, yet transcends, the physical universe.

Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- What is a building that had a significant place in your life? What made it important to you?

Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week?
- How were you able to join God on mission?

¹ This discussion guide was written by Rachel Vaughn and edited by Dawn Gentry. For more background information on the book of 1 Corinthians, see the Reading Plan available [here](#).

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

To the Jews, the Temple represented the power of God in their midst. It was where Heaven and Earth met, a single building to hold the manifest presence of an eternal God. Paul sees the democratic distribution of the Holy Spirit not as an end to the Temple, but as an expansion. We no longer require a priest to offer sacrifices on our behalf. We have one ultimate high priest in Jesus who offered himself as the sacrifice so the Spirit can live in us. God's Temple is no longer bound by geography. It is as vast and diverse as his Kingdom.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- In chapter six, Paul will speak of each Christian's body being a "temple of the Holy Spirit" (6:19). But in this passage, Paul uses the plural form of the word "you" both times - "*You all together are God's temple and God's Spirit dwells in you all.*"
 - What does it mean for all of us – the church collective – to be God's temple?
 - What is the significance of God's Spirit living in us - collectively?
- How does this affect how you view yourself and others?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-22

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- How can becoming a fool make us wise?
- What do you think he means by "all things are yours"?
- Verse 23 states: "And you are of Christ, and Christ is of God." What does that mean to you?
 - How does it change how you live and interact with the world?
- Read verses 16-22 again. How does reading these verses together enhance their meaning?

Reach One More Practice

- This week, pray that God would reveal his wisdom in how best to serve your "one more."
- What are you learning about yourself in this season?
 - What are you learning about God?

Prayer Prompts

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
 - *Jesus, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to us. Show us where we need to become fools to make room for your wisdom.*

For further study

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1corinthians/>
- NT Wright, *1 Corinthians* (NT Wright For Everyone commentary series)
- Max Lucado, *Life Lessons from 1 Corinthians*
- Ben Witherington, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*