

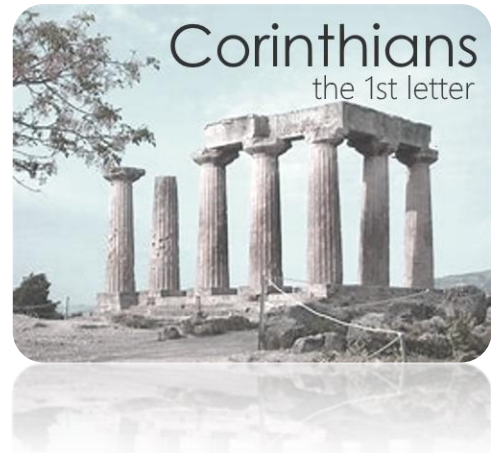
1 CORINTHIANS 3 vs 1

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Jesus said, I will build My Church. In this chapter, Paul gives us many interesting details as to what that lively edifice looks like:

¹ For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people, but as carnal people / in Greek: **sarkikos**... from **sarx**, meaning: **flesh**, what is the thin veneer on the surface. In Acts we read: the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon all sarx... which sounds like a good thing, doesn't it? Paul, a good teacher... who was taught by the Best is not using a condemnatory tone in this 1st letter, much like we hear from self-righteous peddlers. To Romans, Paul wrote: to be carnally minded is death... We should understand that verse: to be only carnally minded is deadly... since God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.



Sarx, the surface of the soma, is the container that became infected. If our minds don't rise any higher than fixation on sarx: big butts and big tits... and big fads and fashions, and even bigger choices of the soup of the day; then we live stranded in disorder, never able to reach to where our Father God lives and moves. To the Colossians, Paul said, Fix your mind... not on the earth, but on things above where Christ sits,

When reading scripture... instead of hearing the traditional rants of the critical and pharisaical hypocritically projecting their own fears and phobias, I try to understand how an elementary school teacher would speak to students. Paul had contrasted the wisdom of man with the wisdom of God: and said, we have the mind of Christ, so he could simply be saying...

Brothers and sisters... I speak to you **not in lofty spiritual concepts, but more down to earth... even as babies in Christ.**

² I fed you with milk, and **not with meat** / the word is: **broma**, a full meal:

since you were **not ready for it; in fact, you are still not able.**

³ For you are still only carnal / stuck at the lowest level of your high calling and... what is prepared for those who love God, who are also called to love one another:

for where among you is jealousy and strife, and divisions; are you not carnal, and behaving like any human? / so they were stuck acting like the goofy people who populate much of churchianity now days; and worse, like the religious leaders who wanted to murder Jesus when He lived among us. Proverbs 6:16 is a list of things the Lord hates wherever He finds them... what these people were doing... who claimed to be recipients of God's grace and peace,

⁴ For while one says, I am of Paul;

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and another, I am of Apollos, are you not carnal? / this divisive spirit is present throughout the church world today. I will always appreciate [Artur Simonyan, Pastor of Word of Life Church Yerevan](#) [who said: Any friend of Jesus is a friend of mine!](#) End of discussion! By the way, Paul was not throwing stones. To the romans, Paul said: [I am carnal](#)... tells us about the old man warring inside him!

⁵ What then is Paul, and what is Apollos? / when compared to the One who rose from the dead.

but **servants** / **diakonos**... so Paul tells us that both he and Apollos, these venerable men... were doing what the mother-in-law of Peter did after she was healed by the Lord; and what those brave women did at the crucifixion, who stood there by the cross as Jesus gave His life for us; the bible is so interesting, isn't it? And you wonder if these great men learned... from all those faithful women, don't you?

through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave to each / the word is: **hekatos**, used several times more in this chapter. It means: each man, woman, or child.

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase / Moses said, never forget, [it is the Lord who gives us the power to gain wealth](#).

⁷ So then neither the one who plants, nor the one who waters is anything;

but God who gives the increase / Paul says, each doing their little part; yet underscoring a second time: it is God our Father, who is tirelessly working, who keeps this growing edifice alive. Here, Paul reminds us: it is our Father in heaven who has all the bragging rights.

⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor / Paul is talking about they are one team, one crew.

⁹ For we are coworkers with God:

You are God's land / His vineyard where He is working Jesus said, [I am the vine](#) -- the conduit giving life... [and My Father is the husbandman](#), in Greek: **georgion**... from **geo = land + ergo = work**... more literally: the worker of the ground. So, what is Paul saying? Paul is talking to a mixed group of country and city folk.

You are God's building / **oikodome**, from **oikos = house**... where we probably get the idea that God is building a really big house, you know, a mansion! Jesus, the night He was betrayed, told us [about the house where His Father lives](#)... and it is not made with brick and stone by human hands.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given to me, as a wise masterbuilder / in Greek: **architekton**... used once in scripture: here! Paul alone is who was given the assignment to skillfully and artfully... place the foundation of the house our great God is building. You know Abraham... looked for the city which had foundations whose builder -- technites... closely related to this same word... and maker is

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God; and Paul's effort was no Katrina disaster... later needing a rebuild due to cracks and unstable footings,

→ **I laid the foundation** / Paul, having done his assignment dutifully, while faithfully growing in profound humility as he opened previously unknown mysteries, as he was 5 times beaten with 39 lashes; as he was 3 times beaten with rods; 1 time dragged to the edge of the city in Asian minor, stoned and left for dead... that he should learn... not to trust in himself, but in God, who raises the dead;

→ 3 times shipwreck; 1 day and night adrift... dangers at sea; dangers from robbers and countrymen... and the heathen... and among false brethren... in cities and in the wilderness... endlessly weary, wrenching in pain, always needing to be watchful; often in hunger and thirst in the heat of the day... often forced to fast endless days; inadequately clothed, shivering in the cold of night; and beside all those externals... the inner war that raged... fed by accusations of false teachers and self-absorbed potentates... while, always more importantly pressed with the care and concern for the living church... that Jesus said He would build.

Paul did his assignment with sweat on his palms; as he... kept his own body under subjection; literally, bringing it into bondage, Paul learned to enslave his body and not feed his every impulse... lest while preaching to others, he himself become a castaway, -- **1 Corinthian 9**; a reprobate... someone still on probation unable to pass any of his tests of faith... and faithfulness,

I laid the foundation... and another builds on it / Paul says, start building!

But let each be cautious how he builds on it / Paul doesn't say: Don't build. He says: **build wisely**. We just read Paul was doing his part; Apollos was doing his part... and all the others, too. After all, this big house is a family project... it is where our Father God along with His adopted family... after His goodness and mercy has followed them... all the days of their lives, where they all will dwell... forever.

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay / no man, no woman, no child can set the ground; we all can build, but only on the one foundation... that is already set in place. All the late-comers who have a new revelation can be ignored. If they do not build on the one foundation Jesus Christ dying on the cross for us; dead, buried and 3 days later raised from the dead by the promise of His Father; then tell them keep walking. Don't even be polite and listen. They build shoddy and steal from the faithful.

For no other foundation can anyone lay... than what is laid,

which is Jesus Christ / there is no other foundation; no other stone to set in place. No other word to declare. And don't worry if others will want to redesign the foundation; fools and deceivers will come in every generation. **Psalms 118** declares: the stone that the builder rejected... is become the chief cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing... it is marvelous in our eyes!

¹² Now if anyone / man, woman or child **builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble** / using the finest or poorest elements to build; this answers: what did you do with what was given to you?

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Just an aside: you know, in the 1800s the Grimm Brothers preserved many Saxon verses taught by fathers and mothers to their children as they migrated to their place promised by God. We all grew up learning the **big, bad wolf**... would huff and puff... and try to blow the house down, right? And possibly succeed, depending if the house was built on straw, or sticks or bricks. We all have read Isaiah, who said: though your sins are as crimson, they will be white as snow... you know: snow white! Saxon literature is a great study of historical truths,

but let's not interrupt Paul, he set the foundation; and with all you've been given, start building.

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble,


¹³ each one's work will become obvious; for the Day will show it / one day it all will be revealed:

/ Moses told us about 7 great Days which belong to the Lord; 7 specific work days He does something; 4 days are already complete. The 5th great Day of Trumpets, when the Lord will step our direction and, with a shout, the dead in Christ will rise first... and then we who remain will be grabbed up... Afterwards, the 6th terrible Day to test all on the earth. And the 7th great Day of joy and thanks, Messiah reigns!

because it will be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test each one's work.

¹⁴ If anyone's work remains which he has built on it, he will receive a reward / if their work continues to produce a fruitful response of love and peace, built on Jesus Christ alone; who can imagine?! To God be the glory!


¹⁵ If any one's work is burned up, he will experience loss: but he himself will be saved; but only as through fire / with the smell of smoke on him; again, who can imagine?

 **¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the naos of God** / the **sacred place** of God; Paul is talking about the local gathering; even where 2 or 3 gather. Jesus talked about **his heart**: often translated **temple**, which is a different word in the gospels; perhaps this confusion is evidence of sloppy religious traditions; **naos** means: a dwelling; Stephen says, the Most High does not dwell in naos made with hands.

 So Paul is also talking about the individual, **in your heart**; and he says: don't mess it up.

Paul asks:

Do you not know that you are the sacred naos of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

 **¹⁷ If anyone destroys the naos of God, God will destroy him; for the naos of God is holy, which you are.**

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¹⁸ **Let no one deceive himself.** If any among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool so that he truly become wise / Paul says, join us in the way contrary to the world, join us in the way of God,

¹⁹ **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Since it is written,**

He catches the wise in their own craftiness / in all their dishonest working.

²⁰ **And again, The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain** / their thoughts are devoid of meaningful content, and empty of results.

²¹ **So, let no one boast in human leaders, for everything is yours** / Paul says in this chapter, God has given us a lot; starting with His Spirit; so there is no need to brag or glory about anyone:

²² **whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; everything is yours** / the good stuff, the bad stuff down here... it all belongs to you; what you've been given belongs to you to work with... and God will expect us to own it all: the good and the bad; the sweet smelling stuff and the rancid stench;

²³ **and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.** Paul lets the people of God know... they are in Good Hands! So start building!

[Every Praise](#) | [Salvation is Your Name](#) | [This is My Father's World](#)

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise:  [The Songlist](#)

[His Sheep Hear His Voice And Follow Him](#) | [O Come Let Us Adore Him](#)

[In Christ Alone](#) | [Fibonacci in Nature; The Code of Life](#)