

LIVE THE OPPOSITE LIFE

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

WORSHIP

Hosanna (Praise Is Rising),
Only A God Like You,
Cornerstone, Build My Life

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?

A. Say No to carnality, be Spirit-filled. (1 Cor. 2)

The Greek for flesh is sarkinois (sar'-kee-nos) which means carnal. Every time we give in to sin, we become carnal. The Spirit and the flesh are opposed to each other (Galatians 5:16-17). To be spiritual, meaning, to be controlled by the Spirit is indispensable if we are to live the life that God has called us to.

The Corinthians' carnality was seen through their strife and jealousy (Gal.5:19) but they experienced God's grace and transformation as evidenced by their spiritual gifts in chapter 1:6-7. Is there any evidence of spiritual rebirth or becoming a new creation in your life? The bible says: 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him. (1 John 3:9a)

B. To live the opposite life, focus on Jesus, not on people (i.e. leaders).

How do you feel as a leader? Do you feel that the growth validates your ability and skills in leading people? Without you realizing it, are you starting to believe that you are responsible for the growth both in numbers of people coming to faith and in their character?

Paul clearly knew his identity and his place in relation to Jesus when he told the Corinthians --What am I? I am just a servant of the Lord who pointed you to Jesus. He is the One who is causing the growth.

1 Cor. 3:9-11: 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 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.

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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.

Don't set your leaders or disciplers as your model in life. Look to Jesus and follow him as your model. He is the One who called you and He is the One who changes you and causes you to grow. If you are focused in following Jesus, you will keep going even if your discipler or leader gets sidetracked.

C. To live the Opposite life, invest in the spiritual lives of people.

It is said that there are only two things that will last eternally: The Word of God and the souls of men. Paul pursued both – by preaching the Word of God and seeking to point everyone to Jesus so that they will be saved.

Paul had an eternal mindset. He went to Corinth to preach the gospel because he clearly understood that there is no other way by which people can be saved from being separated from God for eternity because of sin, apart from Jesus. And God used him to establish the church there.

The bible also tells us that Paul worked as a tentmaker at certain times to support himself. In fact, he was doing this at Corinth where he met Aquila and Priscilla according to Acts 18:2-3.

But he viewed his work as a tentmaker as a means to support himself so that he can preach the gospel. This is matter is captured in his letter to the Thessalonians where he wrote:

⁹ For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. (1 Thess. 2:9). 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.

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

1. Can you say that Jesus Christ is the foundation of your life? Why or why not?
2. With what materials are you building your life right now (see 1 Corinthians 3:12).
3. How will you best live your life as part of God's temple?

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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