

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS
for the Week of June 4, 2017

LIFE TOGETHER IN A DIVIDED WORLD
Built on One Foundation
1 Corinthians 3:1-23

1. Considering the last couple of months, which building below best describes your life? *Why?*

_____ skyscraper

_____ revival tent

_____ grass shack

_____ haunted mansion

_____ bomb shelter

_____ Grand Central Station

_____ greenhouse

_____ Other? _____

_____ fitness gym

2. *Got Milk?* **Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4.** According to Paul, who are “carnal” or “worldly” Christians? How does their spiritual immaturity show itself?
3. Some tend to exaggerate the status and importance of Christian ministers and leaders, while others constantly undervalue and criticize them, paying them little respect. In your opinion, which is more harmful for the church and its leaders – flattery or lack of appreciation? Why?
4. **Read 3:5-15.** Here Paul uses two metaphors for the church: a field and a building. Although these images seem quite different from each other at first glance, what similarities do they share? What is Paul’s point here?

5. Paul has no quarrel with Apollos, the gifted speaker who ministered in Corinth after Paul left there (Acts 18:24-28). He does have a problem with the idea that anyone might play him and Apollos against one another. Why? How does Paul view his role? How can this help us when we grow jealous of others, or when we begin to compete with others, or compare ourselves to them (**cf. 2 Cor. 4:5**)?

6. N.T. Wright says: “There is only one pedestal in the kingdom of God and only one person to be put on it. But it isn’t a statue to be put up as a monument in a town square. It is a cross; and the Messiah who hung and died on it passed judgment on all human fame, celebrity, popularity and reputation.” If this is true, why do people often rank different kinds of Christian service as more or less important? What are some correctives to this problem according to this passage?

7. What is the point of Paul’s warning in **3:12-15**? What is he saying here?

8. **Read 3:16-22.** In 3:16, Paul says the temple of God’s Spirit is “you” plural, not you as an individual. What is the significance of this?

9. Warren Wiersbe writes: “. . . you cannot manage a local church the same way you run a business. This does not mean we should not follow good business principles, but the operation is totally different. There is a wisdom of this world that works for the world, but it will not work for the church.” Do you agree or disagree? Why? How does this apply to **3:18-20**?

10. Consider Paul’s statement in **3:18** about becoming a “fool.” What does he mean here? When have you had to discard the wisdom of the world in order to be open to receive God’s wisdom?