Through the Lens of Faith: A Study of 1 Corinthians

Pleasant View Church of Christ
Lesson 7 – 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Quarrelling Among You

*Paul is still dealing with the ***root cause*** of their ***divisions*** (1:10-31)

Immature -> Faith

Heb 5:11-12 "About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since ***you have become dull of hearing***. For though by this time ***you ought to be teachers***, you need someone to ***teach you again the basic principles*** of the ***oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food...***"

Human -> Behavior

***Those Who Are Perishing (1:18)**

***Wisdom of this Age (2:6)**

***Spirit of the World (2:12)**

***The Natural Person (2:14)**

***Of the Flesh (3:3)**

***Merely Human (3:4)**

I Follow...

A ***lack of spiritual maturity*** has caused them to follow the ***human instinct*** of ***choosing sides*** rather than ***uniting upon Christ***

I follow Paul
Acts 18:1-18; 20:2-3

I follow Apollos
Acts 18:24-19:1; 1Co 16:12

God's Building

Eph 2:19-22 "...***built on the foundation*** of the apostles and prophets, ***Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone***..."

1Pe 2:4-10 "you yourselves like living stones are ***being built up as a spiritual house***, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God ***through Jesus Christ***"

Not Address You as Spiritual People
This ***contrasts*** with Paul's discussion of the "**spiritual person**" in **2:10-16**

1 **But I** brothers, *could not address you* as **spiritual people**, but as **people of the flesh**, as ***infants in Christ***.

Paul is using the metaphor of an "infant" to make his point about their lack of maturity

2 I fed you with **milk**, **not solid food**, **for** you were *not ready for it*. And ***even now*** *you are not yet ready*,

What is Paul Saying? -> They have not progressed beyond the starting point!

3 **for** you are ***still of the flesh***. **For** while there is ***jealousy*** and ***strife*** *among you*, are you *not* ***of the flesh*** and *behaving only in a* ***human way?***

"Jealousy and strife" are symptoms of their lack of spiritual maturity (2Co 12:20; Gal 5:20)

4 **For** when one says, "***I follow*** **Paul**," and another, "***I follow*** **Apollos**," are you not **being merely human**?

Paul returns to their "quarreling" (1:10-13)
The ***root cause*** is their ***lack of progression in spiritual maturity*** leaving them ***in the flesh*** acting on their ***human nature***!

5 ***What then*** is **Apollos**? What is **Paul**? **Servants** through whom you believed, as the ***Lord assigned to each***. **Rom 12:3-7 "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them"**

6 ***I*** **planted**, ***Apollos*** **watered**, but ***God*** gave the **growth**.

7 **So** ***neither*** he who ***plants*** nor he who ***waters*** is **anything**, but **only God** who gives the ***growth***.

Paul puts himself and Apollos at the same level

8 ***He who plants and he who waters are*** **one**, and each will ***receive his wages*** according to ***his labor***. **<- Mt 25:14-30**

Both Paul and Apollos are subordinate to God

9 **For** ***we are God's fellow workers***. **You** are **God's field**, **God's building**.

This sets up for where Paul is headed in 10-17
Paul and ***Apollos*** are merely ***servants*** working in ***God's field*** and in ***God's building!***

♪♪ None of Self and All of Thee ♪♪

NO ONE *instantly transforms fully* from a ***human to spiritual perspective*** upon their conversion, **BUT** there **SHOULD be** a **steady maturing** throughout life (**1Th 4:1**)

How Does One Mature in Faith?

Phil 2:12 "as you have ***always*** **obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling..."

Heb 5:13-14 "...everyone who ***lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness***, since he is a child. But ***solid food is for the mature***, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by **constant practice** to distinguish good from evil."

What Then

*****He wants to ***impress upon the Corinthians*** that ***Paul, Apollos***, and any other Gospel worker are ***nothing more than servants***...

******No Gospel worker*** is ever to be ***idolized***...

******Idolizing men*** can become an ***instrument*** for ***dividing the body of Christ***...

"He" and "He" are "One"

*****This is a ***direct rebuke*** of the Corinthian ***party spirit***, which ***set Paul and Apollos up as rivals***...

*****Paul is not only saying that ***neither is to be honored above the other***, but that ***neither is worthy of faith***!

*****There is ***only One*** who can truly ***produce fruit*** and is ***worthy of our faith***!

******Only One*** has the ***power to unite*** rather than divide!

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Quarrelling Among You

1 Corinthians 1:10–31 (ESV)

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you
agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same
mind and the same judgment. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that
there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says,
"I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." 13 Is Christ
divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I
thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one may
say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of
Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did
not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent
wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are
being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what
we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek
wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to
Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God
and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the
weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly
standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose
what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to
shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that
are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the
presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us
wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is
written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Spiritual Person

1 Corinthians 2:10–16 (ESV)

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches
everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the
spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God
except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the

Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13] And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

[14] The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. [15] The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. [16] "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

None of Self and All of Thee (Lyrics) - Author: Theodore Monod (1874)

Verse 1
O, the bitter pain and sorrow That a time could ever be, When I proudly said to Jesus, "All of self, and none of Thee," All of self, and none of Thee, All of self, and none of Thee, When I proudly said to Jesus, "All of self, and none of Thee."

Verse 2
Yet He found me; I beheld Him Bleeding on th'accursed tree, And my wistful heart said faintly, "Some of self, and some of Thee, "Some of self, and some of Thee, Some of self, and some of Thee, And my wistful heart said faintly, "Some of self, and some of Thee."

Verse 3
Day by day His tender mercy Healing, helping, full and free, Bro't me lower while I whispered, "Less of self, and more of Thee, " Less of self, and more of Thee, Less of self, and more of Thee, Bro't me lower while I whispered, "Less of self, and more of Thee."

Verse 4
Higher than the highest heavens, Deeper than the deepest sea,Lord, Thy love at last has conquered, "None of self, and all of Thee," None of self, and all of Thee, None of self, and all of Thee, Lord, Thy love at last has conquered, "None of self, and all of Thee."

Spiritual Maturity

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (ESV)
[1] Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

Hebrews 5:11–14 (ESV)
[11] About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. [12] For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, [13] for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since

he is a child. [14] But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Philippians 2:12 (ESV)

[12] Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

Human Behavior

1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)

[18] For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:6 (ESV)

[6] Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (ESV)

[12] Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

[14] The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

I Follow Paul

Acts 18:1–18 (ESV)

[1] After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. [2] And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, [3] and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. [4] And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

[5] When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. [6] And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” [7] And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. [8] Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. [9] And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on

speaking and do not be silent, [10] for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." [11] And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

[12] But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, [13] saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law." [14] But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. [15] But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things." [16] And he drove them from the tribunal. [17] And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

[18] After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.

Acts 20:2–3 (ESV)

[2] When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. [3] There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

I Follow Apollos

Acts 18:24–19:1 (ESV)

[24] Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. [25] He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. [26] He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. [27] And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, [28] for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

[1] And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.

1 Corinthians 16:12 (ESV)

[12] Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

Lord Assigned

Romans 12:3–8 (ESV)

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

According to His Labor

Matthew 25:14–30 (ESV)

14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

God's Building

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV)
19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:4–10 (ESV)
4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,"

8 and

"A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.