Quarrelling Among You

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

Skilled Master Builder

***Paul views **his skill** as a "**master builder**" as **only** being **possible** by the "**grace of God**"
-Eph 3:7-10

One Foundation (11)

(1:23) "we preach ***Christ crucified***, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles"

(2:2) "I decided to know nothing among you except ***Jesus Christ and him crucified***"

Two Classes of Materials (12)

Gold, Silver, Precious Stones – Materials used in ancient temples
-1Ch 22:14-16; 29:2

Wood, Hay, Straw – Used for ordinary houses

This points to the quality of one's work…

Tested by Fire (13)

The quality of the work will be revealed and tested by the Lord!

Two Outcomes (14-15)

Work Survives -> The work is ***high quality*** and survives the test. The builder ***receives a reward***.

Work Burns Up -> The work is ***low quality*** and burns up. The builder survives but ***receives no reward***.

God's Temple (16-17)

Acts 2:38 "and **you will receive** the gift of the **Holy Spirit**"

Rom 8:9 "...Anyone who **does not have** the **Spirit of Christ** does **not belong to him.**"

1 Co 6:19 "...do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** within you"

You Are…God's Building: This section ***builds*** on Paul's reference to these Christians as "**God's Building**" in **v. 9**

10 According to the ***grace of God*** given to me, like a ***skilled master builder*** I laid a **foundation**, and ***someone else*** is building upon it. **Let each one take care how he builds upon it**.

This is the main point of 3:10-17

11 **For** **no one** can ***lay a foundation*** *other than that which is laid*, which is **Jesus Christ**. <- ***Anywhere else*** we attempt to ***build our life*** will ***fail*** **(Mt 7:24-27; Lk 6:46-49)**, like on the ***backs of men*** **(1:12; 3:4)**

12 **Now** if anyone *builds* on the ***foundation*** with **gold**, **silver**, **precious stones**, **wood**, **hay**, **straw**— <- *The* ***teacher ("someone else")*** *has a* ***choice*** *of* ***materials*** *to use when* ***building on the foundation***

13 each one's ***work*** will become ***manifest***, for **the Day** will ***disclose it***, because it will be ***revealed by*** **fire**, and the **fire** will ***test*** what sort of ***work*** each one has done.

The Day?? 1Th 5:2; 2Th 2:2

14 **If** the ***work*** that anyone has built ***on the foundation*** **survives**, he will receive a ***reward***. <- ***Phil 4:1; 1Th 2:19-20; 2Th 1:4; 2Co 1:14; 3:2-3***

15 **If** anyone's ***work*** is ***burned up***, he will ***suffer loss***, though ***he himself will be saved***, but *only as through fire*.

NIV84 "as one escaping through the flames"

16 **Do you not know** that you are **God's temple** and ***that God's Spirit dwells in you***? <- ***Eph 1:13*** "when you ***heard***... the word of truth...and ***believed in him***, were ***sealed with the promised Holy Spirit...***"

17 If anyone ***destroys God's temple***, **God** will ***destroy him***. **For** ***God's temple*** is ***holy***, and you are that temple. <- ***1 Jn 1:5-10***

Paul is likely pointing back to those who are causing divisions at Corinth (1:11-13)

Someone Else?

Who is the "**someone else**" that is **building on the foundation?**
-1Co 3:6; Jam 3:1

Which is Jesus Christ

Ps 118:12 "The ***stone*** that the ***builders rejected*** has become the ***cornerstone***"

Isa 8:14 "he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a ***rock of stumbling...***"

Isa 28:16 "I am the one who has laid as a ***foundation*** in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious ***cornerstone***, of a sure ***foundation***"

Acts 4:7-12 "This Jesus is the ***stone*** that was ***rejected by you***, the builders, which has become the ***cornerstone***"

Eph 2:19-20 "built on the ***foundation*** of the ***apostles and prophets***, ***Christ Jesus*** himself being the ***cornerstone***"

1 Peter 2:4-10 "As you come to him, a ***living stone rejected by men*** ...you yourselves like living stones are being ***built up as a spiritual house...***"

Reminder: What is the Point?

Building a life on Jesus is a **SERIOUS MATTER**

It starts with ***choosing the right foundation and then focusing on ***building with the utmost priority, quality, and effort***!

How serious is it?

Individually and collectively, ***we are a temple of ***God's Holy Spirit*** (**Eph 2:22**)

Being "God's Building***" is literally ***life or death***!

Anyone who ***builds in a ***shoddy way*** deserves ***destruction***
-> 1:11-13; 3:4; Jam 3:1

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This handout can be downloaded in PDF format from: **(teamagee.com/1corinthians2026)**

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."

God's Building

1 Corinthians 3:9 (ESV)

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

Someone Else

1 Corinthians 3:6 (ESV)
6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

James 3:1 (ESV)
1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Skilled Master Builder

Ephesians 3:7–10 (ESV)
7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

One Foundation

1 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV)
23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)
2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Lay a Foundation

Psalm 118:22 (ESV)
22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

Isaiah 8:14 (ESV)
14 And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 28:16 (ESV)
16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
"Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,
a stone, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:
'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'

Romans 9:33 (ESV)
33 as it is written,

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Acts 4:7–12 (ESV)
7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Ephesians 2:19–20 (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,

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.

Failing Foundation

Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV)

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Luke 6:46–49 (ESV)

46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

1 Corinthians 1:12 (ESV)

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."

1 Corinthians 3:4 (ESV)

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

Two Classes of Materials

1 Chronicles 22:14–16 (ESV)

14 With great pains I have provided for the house of the LORD 100,000 talents of gold, a million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of it; timber and stone, too, I have provided. To these you must add. 15 You have an abundance of workmen: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of craftsmen without number, skilled in working 16 gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Arise and work! The LORD be with you!"

1 Chronicles 29:2 (ESV)
2 So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble.

The Day

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (ESV)
2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 (ESV)
2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

A Reward

Philippians 4:1 (ESV)
1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

1 Thessalonians 2:19–20 (ESV)
19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? 20 For you are our glory and joy.

2 Thessalonians 1:4 (ESV)
4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

2 Corinthians 1:14 (ESV)
14 just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

2 Corinthians 3:2–3 (ESV)
2 You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. 3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Only As Through Fire

1Co 3:15 NIV84

God's Temple

Acts 2:38 (ESV)
38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9 (ESV)
9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (ESV)
19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)
13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 2:22 (ESV)
22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Shoddy Construction

1 Corinthians 1:11–13 (ESV)
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?

1 Corinthians 3:4 (ESV)
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James 3:1 (ESV)
1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.