

MESSAGE GUIDE

REBOOT: Why the Corinthian Church

Was So Anemic

1 Corinthians 3:1-23



February 11, 2018

CONNECT

- Spring is almost here, which means the gardening season will soon be upon us. Have you ever gardened? What lessons have you learned from spending time trying to grow things? (Or, do you just prefer to get your fruits and veggies from the grocery store?)

STUDY

Chapter 3 of 1 Corinthians is a continuation of Paul's response to the divisive problem of favoritism within the Corinthian Church. In this chapter, Paul broaches the real problem in Corinth and the reason their church is so weak. Read through the chapter and then use the following questions to help the message sink in even deeper.

- Take a look at verses 1-5. What reason does Paul give for why he couldn't address them as spiritual? What was it that was keeping the Corinthians in a state of spiritual infancy?
- How do verses 5-9 use agriculture to paint a proper perspective of what a humble, healthy church looks like? What did Paul want the Corinthians to get from his illustration?
- Check out verses 10-15. What is the only healthy foundation for the church to build upon? With your answer in mind, what other types of foundations do men try to build the church upon? What is the result of building on the wrong foundation?

How do verses 13-15 talk about how God rewards faithful believers who serve Him well? What happens if we fail to serve God faithfully, living more for ourselves than Him?

- Read verse 16. Why do you think Paul was so emphatic about asking the Corinthians this question?

APPLY

- Why would the fact that the Corinthians were so spiritually immature be aggravating to Paul?
- In the message, it was mentioned that three things help a church flourish: diversity of ministries, unity of purpose and humility of Spirit. How does each one of these components help a church move toward health and functionality?
- Paul wrote about how God rewards those who are faithful in serving Him. Why should an understanding of rewards be important for the Christian?
- Why is it foolish (and futile) to boast in the works of men?
- What do you think God would want us to learn by time spent looking into 1 Corinthians 3? What was the biggest takeaway for you?