

## Only What's Done For Christ Will Last.

In 1 Cor 3 we are looking at the question of '**who owns the church?**' Whose signature is on it? Who presides over it, takes responsibility for it, who leads it, who controls it?

**Paul's responding answer** in the chapter is that **God owns it**. The church is his idea, his creation, his possession. The bible uses different language to affirm that over and over. Christ paid for the church with his blood, we are told. He purchased it. He is its head, its source, and its life.

In 1 Cor 3, Paul uses three analogies to make the same point:

**VV 5-9 Agricultural Analogy:** The Church is God's Farm We are just God's hired hands...

*'God gave the growth.'* 1 Cor 3.5

**VV 10-15: Architectural Analogy:** The Church is God's building, built upon God's own foundation...

**VV 16-17 Religious Analogy:** The Church is God's Temple... filled with God's Spirit...

Here's the point. Everything in the church is God's. Not mine. Not yours. But Christ's.

**The Architectural Analogy: The Church is A Building** (vv 10-15)

They had seen this church go up from the ground like a new building. First there was the foundation, then the walls, then the roof... So Paul draws from his own experience and says...

1 Cor 3.9 *you are...God's building.*

**Analogy:** the church is a building, with a foundation, and built with a variety of materials. They had seen a lot of building go up in Corinth, but this is **a special building**, unlike any other in Corinth. The church is **God's building!**

The church is constructed on God's foundation (Jesus and his crucifixion), laid by God's Apostle, indwelt by God's Spirit...

Exhortation: vs 10 *Let each man take care how he builds upon it.*

I want to pick out **three quick thoughts** about building...

- **Let Each Build**

We are God's building – being build by God himself! – but then **we become those who build** the building. Let each build!

This has a great deal to do with **how you live your life**. Building **across the scope** of your life; parish, neighbors, marriage, children, network of associations and friendships.

Your life is all **God's vineyard. God's building project**. He is in the business of **building what will last** for eternity. He has made you a co-worker in his building project **to build alongside him**. So build!

The moment of opportunity in **the realignment**. A chance to build! *"Let each one build..."*

- **Let Each Build Well:**

1 Cor 3:10 *According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation. Now others are building on it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.*

Build well, build with care. The difference between a sloppy job and one well done.

What does that mean?

1 Cor 3:11 *For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Build on the foundation. Let the most important things in your life rest upon Jesus, upon his life, his death, his resurrection. What you build upon that will last.

- **Let Each Build to Last**

Materials that correspond with the foundation, not with the passing fads of this world.

1 Cor 3:12-13

*If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.*

Paul **contrast sets of building materials** here.

Gold and silver and costly stones... are compared with Wood, hay, straw...

The difference between them is not the expense of the material, but the ability of the material to last.

God wants his work to last.

What you build into peoples lives that is anchored in Jesus, dependent upon Jesus, resting upon Jesus will last.

Most of the stuff that we love today...

pop psychology

managerial techniques

sophisticated technology

Doesn't last for more than a year or two.

Ran into a man this past week who lives in Pittsburgh and was in my youth group 33 or 34 years ago in Ohio. It was great to see

him. He is working for a TV station in the city.

We got to talking about those days so long ago. He said, you taught us some of that psychology, "I'm OK, You're OK"

The phrase "I'm OK, You're OK" is one of four life positions that each of us may take. The four positions are:

*I'm Not OK, You're OK*

*I'm Not OK, You're Not OK*

*I'm OK, You're Not OK*

*I'm OK, You're OK*

I spent some weeks in my first year teaching this stuff to kids. We had fun with it, but it **didn't seem to make any lasting impact**. The next summer was the time when I **went for something stronger** in my life. I gave up all the psychology and started to lead kids to Jesus. The results were remarkable.

I remember some years later that I saw a T-shirt that had some words on the front, "If I'm OK and You're OK, then why this?" On the back was a drawing of Christ on the Cross.

The brokenness of **human nature takes stronger medicine** to heal than a snappy sentence from the pop psychologists.

Build – you have a purpose in this life.

Build well - upon the foundation that can hold

Build to last -

When Bec was young, her Mom taught her the couplet of this poem, which is quite a bit longer than its famous repeating line.

*Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way;  
Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not  
depart;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will  
last.*

*Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;*

*□ Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His  
Judgement seat; □*

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will  
last.*

*Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and  
fears; □ Each with its clays I must fulfill, living for self or in His will;*

*□ Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will  
last.*

*When this bright world would tempt me sore, When Satan would a  
victory score; □ When self would seek to have its way, Then help me  
Lord with joy to say; □*

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will  
last.*

*Give me Father, a purpose deep, In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;*

*□ Faithful and true what e'er the strife, Pleasing Thee in my daily life;*

*□ Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will  
last.*