

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

THE WISDOM OF LEADERSHIP THAT LASTS





1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ.² I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready,³ for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?



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“What is intolerable is to have actually received the Spirit, which makes us more than merely human... yet continue to live and act as though we were nothing more.”

- GORDON D. FEE



“In fact, you are acting like people who don’t belong to the Lord at all.”

- LIVING BIBLE

1 Corinthians 3:4^{NLT}

When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world?



1 Corinthians 3:5 NLT

After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's **servants** through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us.





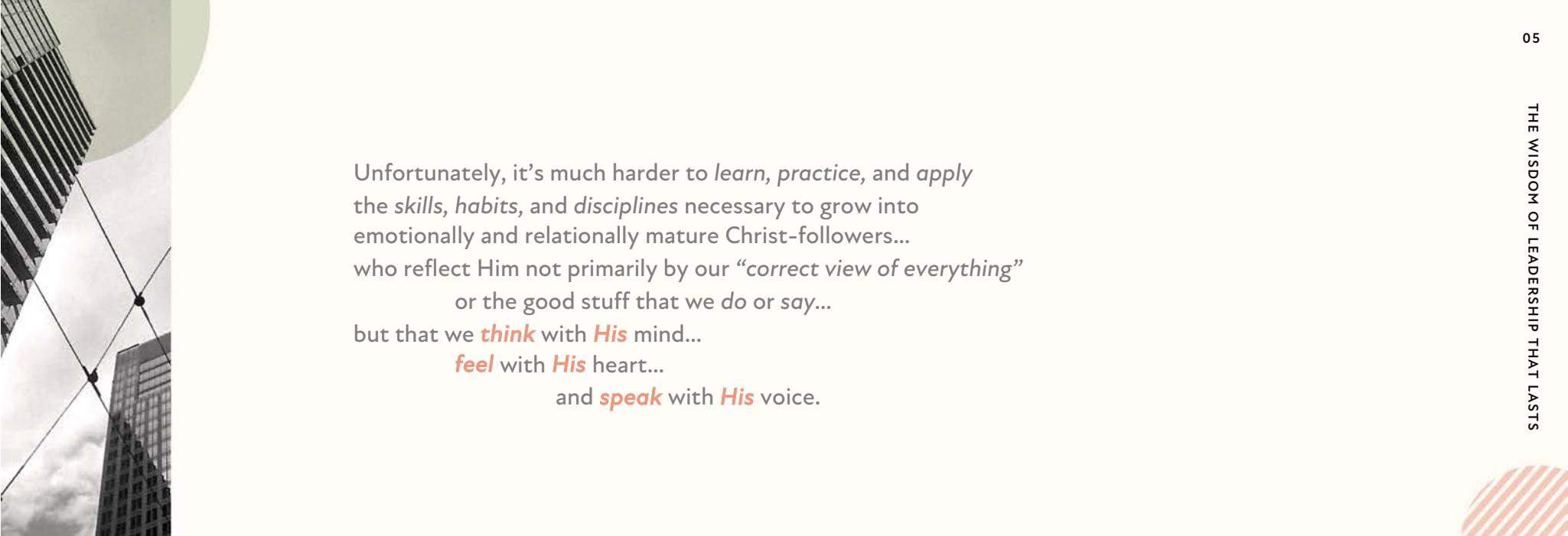
1 Corinthians 3:5b^{MSG}

Servants, both of us—servants who waited on you as you gradually learned to entrust your lives to our mutual Master. We each carried out our servant assignment.



1 Corinthians 3:6-9 NLT

I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.⁷ It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And **both** will be rewarded for their own hard work.⁹ For we are **both** God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

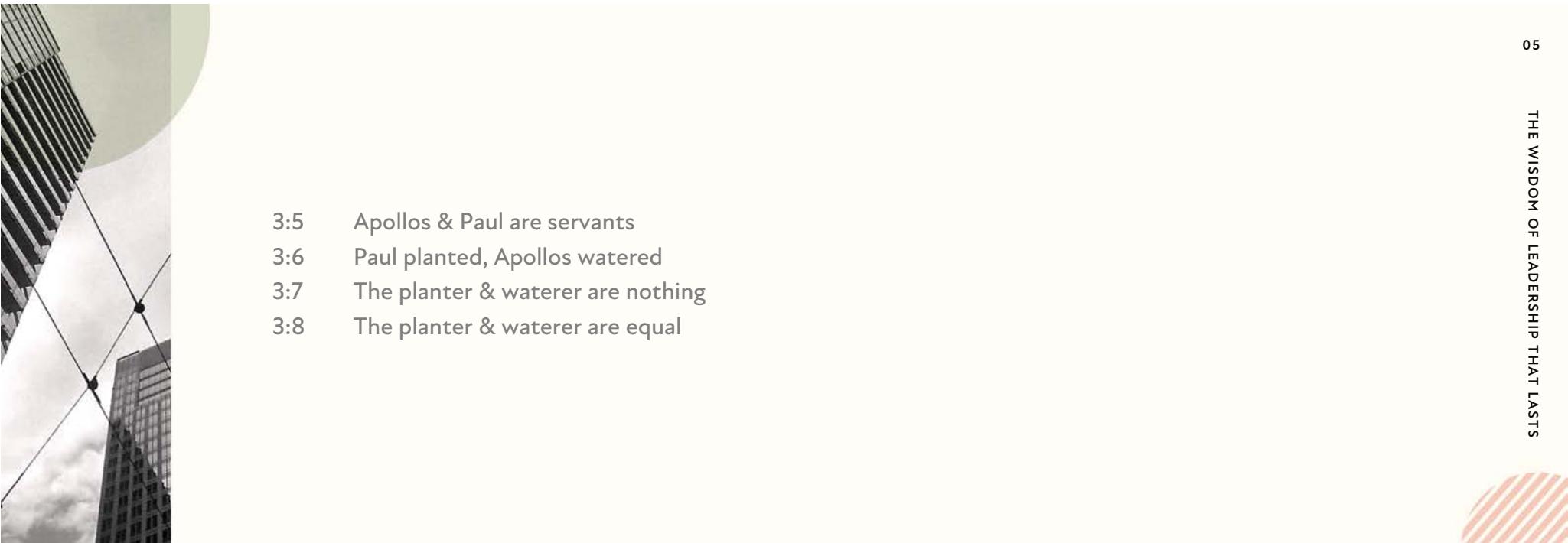


Unfortunately, it's much harder to *learn, practice, and apply* the skills, habits, and disciplines necessary to grow into emotionally and relationally mature Christ-followers... who reflect Him not primarily by our "correct view of everything" or the good stuff that we do or say... but that we **think** with *His* mind... **feel** with *His* heart... and **speak** with *His* voice.



“The end result of an inability to walk out our beliefs is that our churches and relationships within the church are **not qualitatively any different** from the world around us.”

- PETER SCAZZERO

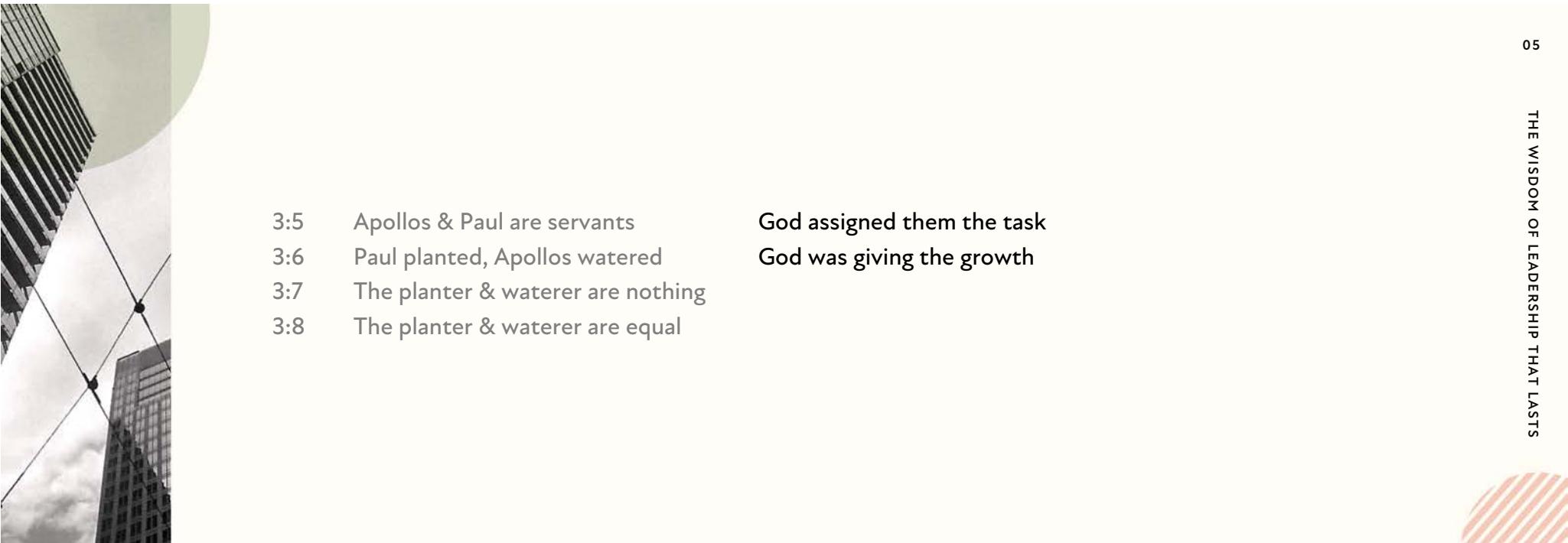


- 3:5 Apollos & Paul are servants
- 3:6 Paul planted, Apollos watered
- 3:7 The planter & waterer are nothing
- 3:8 The planter & waterer are equal



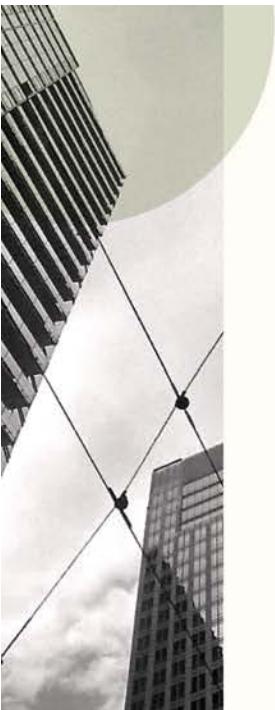
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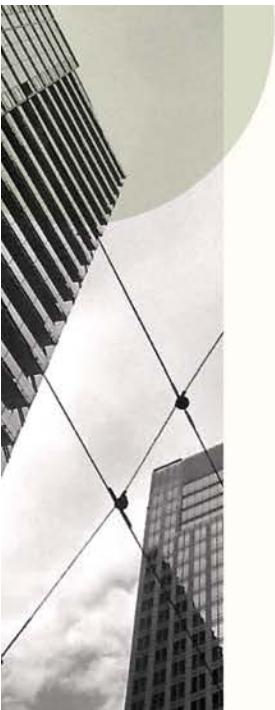
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God who gives the growth is everything





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- God assigned them the task
- God was giving the growth
- God who gives the growth is everything
- God will give them their individual reward



1 Corinthians 3:10-11 NLT

Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now **others** are building on it. But **whoever** is building on this foundation must be very careful. ¹¹ For **no one** can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 NLT

Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw.¹³ But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.¹⁴ If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.¹⁵ But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

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1 Corinthians 3:16-17 NLT

Don't you realize that **all of you together** are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?¹⁷ God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.





1 Corinthians 3:18-20 NLT

Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise.¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say,

“He traps the wise
in the snare of their own cleverness.”

²⁰ And again,
“The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise;
he knows they are worthless.”



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1 Corinthians 3:18-20 ^{MSG}

Don't fool yourself. Don't think that you can be wise merely by being relevant. Be God's fool—that's the path to true wisdom. What the world calls smart, God calls stupid. It's written in Scripture,

He exposes the hype of the hipsters.
The Master sees through the smoke screens
of the know-it-alls.



1 Corinthians 3:21-23 NLT

So don't boast about following a particular human leader. For everything belongs to you—²² whether Paul or Apollos or Peter, or the world, or life and death, or the present and the future. Everything belongs to you,²³ and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

SO NOW WHAT?



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Rivalry is immature, unhealthy, unnecessary, inappropriate, and a dividing tool of Satan...



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Our **ONLY CALLING** is to daily choose a servant heart as we become men and women who live, look, listen, love and sound a wee bit more like our Lord Jesus Christ throughout each and every day.



SO NOW WHAT?

Mark 10:43b-44 NLT

“Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,
⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else.”

SO NOW WHAT?

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling
to which you have been called,
² with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another in love,
³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.



SO NOW WHAT?

1 Peter 3:8 ESV

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy,
brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

SO NOW WHAT?

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