


1 Corinthians 3:1-23

THE WISDOM OF LEADERSHIP THAT LASTS

A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS





Church leaders are servants of Jesus
whom God empowers with gifts to
mature the church.



I CORINTHIANS 3

The Immature Follower (3:1-4)

The Mature Leader (3:5-17)

The Wise Fool (3:18-23)



THE IMMATURE FOLLOWER

THE MATURE LEADER

THE WISE FOOL

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 ^{NIV}

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants **in Christ.** ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³**You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?** ⁴**For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?**



THE IMMATURE FOLLOWER

THE MATURE LEADER

THE WISE FOOL

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 ^{NIV}

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are **still worldly—mere infants** in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you **were not yet ready** for it. Indeed, you are **still not ready**. ³**You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?** ⁴**For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?**

IMMATURE FOLLOWERS

- Do not live by the Spirit (1)
- Are still worldly (1)
- Are mere infants (1)
- Are not ready for solid food (2)
- Are jealous (3)
- Quarrel (3)
- Are mere humans (3)
- Are wise by the standards of this age (18)
- Boast about human leaders (21)



THE IMMATURE FOLLOWER

THE MATURE LEADER

THE WISE FOOL

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 ^{NIV}

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ **You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?** ⁴ **For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?**



THE MATURE LEADER

Servant

Farmer

Builder

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 ^{NIV}

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? **Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task.** ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.



THE MATURE LEADER

Servant
Farmer
Builder

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 ^{NIV}

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? **Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.**



THE MATURE LEADER

Servant
Farmer
Builder

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 ^{NIV}

For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, **God's building.** ¹⁰ **By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.** ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their 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 person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.



THE MATURE LEADER

Servant
Farmer
Builder

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 ^{NIV}

For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their 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 person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.



THE MATURE LEADER


Servant
Farmer
Builder

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 ^{NIV}

Don't you know that you yourselves are **God's temple** and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys **God's temple**, God will destroy that person; for **God's temple** is sacred, and you together are that **temple**.

MATURE LEADERS

- See themselves as servants (5)
- Steward their task (5)
- Understand that God causes growth (7)
- Do not seek self-glory (7)
- See themselves as a co-worker (9)
- Understand that God empowers them (10)
- Build on the foundation with care (10)
- Understand eternal rewards (14)
- Are willing to be seen as wise “fools” (18)

The background of the slide features a low-angle, black and white photograph of several skyscrapers reaching towards the sky. Overlaid on this image are several geometric shapes: a large light green semi-circle in the upper left, a solid black rectangle in the upper center, and a circular pattern of orange and white diagonal stripes in the lower right. A large, light cream-colored rectangle is centered on the slide, containing the text.

“He (Paul) will argue that working for the Lord is all about knowing that God has taken the initiative, God has called, God has assigned the task, God gives growth to the work, and God gives any rewards there might be.”

PAUL GARDNER

MATURE LEADERS

- See themselves as servants (5)
- Steward their task (5)
- Understand that God causes growth (7)
- Do not seek self-glory (7)
- See themselves as a co-worker (9)
- Understand that God empowers them (10)
- Build on the foundation with care (10)
- Understand eternal rewards (14)
- Are willing to be seen as wise “fools” (18)




THE IMMATURE FOLLOWER

THE MATURE LEADER

THE WISE FOOL

1 Corinthians 3:18-23 ^{NIV}

Do not deceive yourselves. **If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise.** ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” ²¹ **So then, no more boasting about human leaders!** All things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and **you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.**



Church leaders are servants of Jesus
whom God empowers with gifts to
mature the church.

TAKEAWAYS

For the immature follower?

For the mature leader?

For the wise fool?

For the non-follower of Jesus?

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

THE WISDOM OF LEADERSHIP THAT LASTS

A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

