

Bible Discussion Group Study Questions

In preparation for Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023

Passage: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Memory Passage: 1 Cor. 1:30-31

Day 1- Ask for Insight

Read the Passage

(a.) Briefly skim through the entire book of 1 Corinthians. Explain the kind of Church that Paul is dealing with. What kind of issues is Paul having to deal with in this church?

(b.) As you think about the issues within the Corinthian Church, how do we see the same issues within the Church today?

(c.) Read 1 Cor. 1:1-9. How does Paul view this church? What observations do you notice concerning the way Paul addresses the Corinthians despite all their issues from this introduction?

Day 2- Ask for Insight

Read the Passage

(a.) Read 1 Cor. 3:1-9. What is the significance of the word "But" in the beginning of vs. 1? How is this connected to the previous chapter? (1 Cor. 2:14-16)

(b.) In vs. 1, what does Paul mean by "spiritual people," "people of the flesh," and "infants in Christ"?

(c.) In vs. 2, what does Paul mean by "I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it?" (Heb. 5:11-14)

(d.) According to vs. 3, why were they not ready for solid food?

Day 3- Ask for Insight

Read the Passage

(a.) Read 1 Cor. 3:1-9. What is the key issue causing division within the Corinthian church according to vs. 1-5? (See also 1 Cor. 1:10-13)

(b.) According to vs. 5, what does Paul say Apollos and Paul are to the church? (Acts 18:1-11; 18:24-19:1)

(c.) In vs. 5b, what is meant by "as the Lord assigned to each?" (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:14-20)

(d.) In vs. 6a, we see that different ministers have different roles (Paul plants while Apollos waters). How is this seen in the churches of today? What are some different roles and giftings that may be seen in different ministers?

(e.) Despite the labor of the ministers, who is it that truly gives the growth according to vs. 6? How should this affect our view/approach to ministry, missions, evangelism, discipleship, etc.

Day 4- Ask for Insight

Read the Passage

(a.) Read 1 Cor. 3:1-9. How would you reconcile man's responsibility with God's sovereignty over the growth (vs. 6-7)? In other words, since God is the one who gives the growth, is this justification for the minister to become apathetic towards his duty?

(b.) What does Paul mean in vs. 8 when he says, "He who plants and he who waters are one?"

(c.) What is Paul referring to by "wages" in vs. 8b? (1 Cor. 3:10-15)

(d.) In verse 8, we see that ministers will give an account for their work and will receive "wages according to their labor." Is this truth only applicable to those in ministry? How does this same principle apply to the layperson? (2 Cor. 5:9-10)

Day 5- Ask for Insight

Read the Passage

(a.) Read 1 Cor. 3:1-9. What does Paul mean by "we are God's fellow workers" in vs. 9? (Mk. 16:20; 2 Cor. 6:1)

(b.) What does Paul mean by "You are God's field, God's building?" (Eph. 2:20-22)

(c.) As we look at the Corinthians, we see that their response to God gifting them with teachers such as Paul, Apollos, and Cephas (Peter) was to become puffed up, arrogant, and divisive. In what ways do Christians today fall into that same trap? What are some red flags to indicate whether a person is beginning to become puffed up by theology, rather than embracing it?