

When Church Becomes Messy: First Corinthians

6 – CONCEPTIONS ABOUT MINISTRY (1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-23)

I. The Work of the Leaders (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

A. The Nature of the Leaders (1 Corinthians 3:5)

- Paul states that he and Apollos are servants of the Lord.
- They are servants whom God used to bring the Corinthians to faith.

B. The Nature of the Work (1 Corinthians 3:6)

- Each had a different ministry to the church.
- God gave the increase as a result of the differing ministries.

C. A Proper Perspective (1 Corinthians 3:7)

- They as leaders are not important, only God who gives the increase.

D. The Unity of the Work (1 Corinthians 3:8)

- They as leaders are equal, and each will be rewarded for his work.

E. The Principle (1 Corinthians 3:9)

- Leaders are God's servants and the church is the work.

II. The Nature of Ministry (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

A. Paul's Work in Corinth (1 Corinthians 3:10a)

- Paul wisely laid a foundation in Corinth that others build upon.

B. The Warning (1 Corinthians 3:10b)

- Paul warns them to take heed how they build upon the foundation he has laid.

C. The Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11)

- Paul states that there is no other foundation than Jesus Christ.

D. The Coming Judgment of the Work (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)

1. The Manner of Their Work (1 Corinthians 3:12)

- Each one builds on the foundation with different materials.

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2. The Judgment of Their Work (1 Corinthians 3:13)

- The nature of one's work will be revealed in the Judgment.

3. The Reward (1 Corinthians 3:14)

- One whose work endures the judgment will be rewarded.

4. The Loss (1 Corinthians 3:15)

- One whose work is burned up will lose everything except their salvation.

III. The Warning (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

A. The Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16)

- Paul states that they are the temple of God where the Holy Spirit dwells.

B. The Warning against Defilement (1 Corinthians 3:17)

- Paul warns that those who defile the temple will be judged severely.

IV. All Belong to Christ (1 Corinthians 3:18-23)

A. A Plea for Realism (1 Corinthians 3:18)

- Paul calls them to not be deceived by the foolishness of worldly wisdom.

B. God's View of Worldly Wisdom (1 Corinthians 3:19-20)

- Paul points out that the wisdom of the world is foolishness to God.

C. The Principle (1 Corinthians 3:21a)

- We are not to boast in men.

D. The Reality (1 Corinthians 3:21b-23)

- All things belong to the church and the church is Christ's.