



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

BUILDING GOD'S WAY

1 Corinthians 3:10-23

We are a construction project from the day we get saved until the day we go home to be with Jesus.

- The foundation of the church—of all believers—is ***Jesus Christ***, and no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid.
- *The “building”* here is the one true church, made up of every true believer.
- Jesus ended his sermon on the Mount with the same picture Paul used here. ***Matthew 7:24-27***



STRUCTURES
AND GROUNDS
UNSAFE
DANGER
KEEP
OUT



CAREFUL CONSTRUCTION

I have heard this passage applied to individual pastors or the ministries God used them in—**this is incorrect!**

THE ONE FOUNDATION IS JESUS CHRIST—not any man.

- **Valuable building materials** are imperishable, lasting forever—here called *gold, silver, and jewels*—**biblical eternal value.**
- **Worthless building materials** symbolize worldly wisdom—here called *wood, hay, and straw*—**only temporal worldly value.**

CAREFUL CONTRACTOR

- A **good workman** who recognizes the quality of the foundation, Jesus Christ, will build with valuable materials so that the building is strong, and lasting.
- A **poor workman** does not value the foundation, will not care about the quality or longevity of the building, and will build with worthless materials.
- Referring to pastors and leaders who are responsible to build their churches with the truth of God's Word.

THE FINAL INSPECTION v. 14-16

We test all things against God's Word; use the Holy Spirit's discernment to assess the validity of all that we teach and build with.

- Let's be working toward great rewards for great kingdom work!
- The building we are concerned about is all of God's people, all who are believers in Jesus Christ; we are the temple of God—the whole Church!
- But it is also each of us personally—your body!

TAKE CARE OF THE TEMPLE, OR ELSE

- In the Old Testament, the penalty for defiling God's dwelling—whether the tabernacle or the temple—was death (**Leviticus 15:31**), or separation from the nation. **Numbers 19:20**
- The penalty for destroying God's spiritual temple, found in His people individually and in the church collectively, is no less severe.
- It is a very bad thing to mess with God's church and His people! God hates false teaching and teachers.

FOLLOWING GOD'S PLANS v. 19-23

- No matter how wise a human being may appear, God is far wiser and His plans are the ones we follow.
- Therefore we, like the Corinthian believers, ought not take pride in following a particular leader, such as Paul and Apollos and Peter—or Jeff 😊—but God!
- Nonbelievers are plan-less victims of life, swept along by its current building with uncertainty and error.
- Believers build effectively and purposefully, with our lives, because we have the Master's plan: the Bible.