

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (March 6, 2022)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

1. Note Paul's affection for the Corinthians as he introduces a rebuke. What principle(s) is evident for the body of Christ?
2. In 1 Corinthians 3:1-2a Paul recounts what had happened without blame. Why was it reasonable that Paul initially fed the Corinthians "milk"?
3. What is the evidence for Paul's accusation that the Corinthians were not ready for a diet of "solid food" (1 Corinthians 1:10-17, 3:2b-5)? How were they behaving and how should have they behaved?

4. How does Paul answer his two questions in 1 Corinthians 3:5? If you are a believer, recall the “servants” God placed in your life “through whom you believed”?

5. “Since both planter and waterer draw any significance they have not from themselves but simply from the fact that God makes use of their efforts, it is absurd to try to play one off against the other (1 Cor. 1:12; 3:4). He who plants and he who waters are one (neuter: *one thing*), in that the aim, result, and motive power of their work are identical. Paul and Apollos have worked in Corinth as allies, not as rivals.”

(The First Epistle to The Corinthians p. 85 by C.K. Barrett)

From Barrett’s quote and the field analogy in 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, discuss lessons regarding ministry.

6. What common theme do you discover from the phrase “God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6-7) with Isaiah 60:21, Matthew 15:13, and John 15:1, 3-4?