

God's Beautiful Messy Church  
Week's Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-23  
Discussion Guide: March 27, 2022

**CHECK UP:**

Memory Work Review: What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

- 1 Corinthians 2:12

Has anything challenged you to action this past week from last week's sermon?

**OPEN:**

- What stood out from this past week's reading?
  
- What do you think is the average church attender's goal in coming to church?
  - o How well do you think people's goal of church matches the biblical goals of church? Explain your answer.

**READ and ASK: 1 Corinthians 3:1-23**

- Why does Paul call the Corinthian church infants?
  - o How does such a confrontation differ from how we often talk to each other in the church today? Is there anything we can learn from that?
  
- What is the purpose of the church?
  - o How does the text remind us of that?
  - o How does this text teach the great commission?
  
- If you woke up tomorrow thinking of yourself as a new employee with God as your boss, what does it look like to serve him? (3:9)
  
- What does it mean to "build with care"? (3:10)
  - o How does verses 3:10-15 call our motives and tactics into evaluation for how we serve the Lord (AKA "do church")?
  - o How can our efforts in teaching and discipleship be like gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw?
  - o How can our teaching and discipleship be influenced by worldly wisdom? (both in terms of content and tactics).
  
- How does 3:16-17 put an extremely high value on the local church?
  - o What was the temple in the Old Testament?
  - o How is the body of believers like that?
  
- How is the church a team? (same goal, same motive, same coach)

**APPLY:**

- Next Steps: In what way or ways do you need to...
  - o remember the goal of the church (great commission)?
  - o evaluate your idea of what the motive and tactics of the church should be?
  - o realign with the coach of the team we are on?

Memory Work:

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? -1 Corinthians 3:16

Next Week's Reading:

1 Corinthians 4:1-21