

A Healthy Church Part Four: Mature Builders

Relevant Bible Verses: 1 Corinthians 3

Message Notes:

- It is easy to become focused on the issues of the world, to become a complainer or critic, rather than pursuing what God has called us to/his purpose for us.
- The challenge today is to sit in front of a mirror and turn on the light (God's Word) to expose and study ourselves with all our faults and blemishes.
- We often only read the parts of the Bible that do not turn on the light, but through reading all the parts of the Bible, we allow ourselves to grow and mature in our faith. Without doing so we cannot grow; we will be stunted in our growth, muddy our message, and will rid the cross of its power. A terrible thing when the world is so desperate for God.
- If nature teaches us anything, it is far easier to get things done when you're healthy. The same goes for spiritual health.
- In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul wanted to address the Corinthians as Spiritual, but couldn't because of how they were acting; as infants of the faith, worldly.
- As long as we have worldliness in us, we cannot reach the depths of God. We will only be able to reach the first few layers of what he has for us, only able to handle milk, unable to handle meat. In Corinth, the immaturity came out in their quarreling and indecision.
- We all have a specific purpose in God, but *Jesus is the head*. None of us is greater than the other, we are all servants of God and are all the same in Christ. Each of us will be awarded for how well we do *in our own tasks*. Our eyes should not be on others, on their tasks or their giftings, as they have no merit to what we ourselves are called to do.
- We are to build everything on the foundation of Christ. This requires choice, sacrifice, and obedience. What we build will be tested by fire. It's not *what* you build, or *how much* you build, but the *quality* of what you build. In other words, God isn't interested in how much you build, but in how well you do it.
- We are building a temple for the power and presence of God to dwell, in our lives, our families, our jobs, etc. How are we doing it? What are we building it with? Are we allowing worldliness to remain? Only the mature can build anything of quality.
- Are we trying to build alone? Alone we do not have all the tools we need to build something of quality on the foundation of Christ. We are called a Body for a reason.

- Do not be afraid to allow God's Word to illuminate the flaws and blemishes in our lives because we need to face these things to grow and mature into health in Christ.