

GOSPEL COMMUNITY

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1 Corinthians 3:1-16



REDEEMER
ROUND ROCK

CONNECT, REVIEW, PRAY

~5-10 minutes

- Announce any church activities/events and handle any housekeeping for the GC
- What are you thankful for / have struggled with this week?
- How did you apply or share what we learned last week?
- How can we pray for each other?

READ & RE-TELL

~5-10 minutes

- Have someone read out loud from the ESV translation.
- Have someone read out loud from a different translation.
- Do we need to define any confusing/unknown/curious words or phrases?
- Ask one person to re-tell the passage in their own words (different from the person reading).

ASK, LISTEN, LEARN

~30+ minutes

- What does this passage tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What does this passage tell us about ourselves/humanity?
- What does this passage tell us about the relationship between God and people?
- Review "FURTHER APPLICATION" questions.

APPLY, OBEY, GO

~10+ minutes

- Does anything in this passage change how you should live, or how you view God / people / yourself?
- Does this passage reveal a specific sin in your life?
- How can you live differently this coming week, with what you've learned?

FURTHER APPLICATION

1. Read 3:1-4. What seem to be the attitudes or behaviors Paul is correcting in this text? If you have the tools, do a word study on the word "flesh" in verse 3.
2. Why are these attitudes and behaviors incongruent with the gospel message and the ways of Jesus?
3. In the sermon, Jordan mentions four ways "self-centered, man-centered" attitudes can shape the way we engage the church (consumers, investigators, performers, and spectators). Take some time and discuss these. In what ways can you identify with these? Share honestly if you have a tendency to engage the church in any of these ways.
4. Read 3:5-17. What is the main idea of these verses?
5. Discuss the metaphors Paul gives to help us rightly understand the church (field, building, temple). In light of these images, how ought we each engage the church?

5 HELPFUL GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

1. *If you talk a lot, allow space for someone else to speak up.*
2. *If you don't talk as much, work on sharing more.*
3. *Focus on what this passage is saying, don't stray too far from it. Seek not only to understand more about God through the passage, but also how it specifically applies to your own life as a Christian.*
4. *Give other people time to respond, silence is ok.*
5. *Respect your GC family and exercise grace.*

COMMENTARY EXCERPT: 1 Corinthians 3:1-16

Just as Paul illustrated his discussion of 1:10–31 about boasting in the Lord by referring to his own coming to Corinth, so too in 3:1–23. He discusses the original and continuing problems of the Corinthian Christians in relation to divisiveness (1–9), the role of the founding apostle and the present care needed to build the church because of future judgment (10–17), concluding with a correction of their misunderstanding of the relationship of teachers to the people of God, (18–23).

1 As in 2:1 and 2:3 Paul begins with another 'and I' in order to discuss further his experiences in Corinth. When he first arrived he could not address them as spiritual but only as worldly and 'infant believers'. 2 Their condition was determined by their diet then, as it still is. 3 That they are still worldly is clear from the presence of jealousy and quarrelling over teachers. Are you not acting like mere men? is lit. 'walking according to man' i.e. guided by secular norms. 4 When they cling exclusively to leaders, be they Paul or Apollos, he again asks, Are you not mere men? Worldliness in this instance proceeds from secular thinking about Christian ministry. 5 The citizens of Corinth reflected their secular world in evaluating people in terms of their privileges, status and wealth—Paul asks if this is not also what the Christians were doing. He uses low status terms to describe Apollos and himself as servants, through whom you came to believe. They could not claim personal credit because the Lord had assigned to each his task. 6 In an elitist Roman colony that despised manual labourers, Paul designates both Apollos and himself as gardeners with different duties. 8 The planter and the waterer have a single purpose, they are not in competition, and each will be rewarded on the basis of his own work. 9 They are God's fellow workers, just as the Corinthians are God's field, and God's building. In the same way that Corinth's magnificent buildings had the benefactor's name inscribed on them, the Corinthians are God's edifice. There is no such thing as 'my converts' and neither do Christians 'belong' to a particular Christian teacher or evangelist.

10 By God's grace Paul is the founding apostle or architect of the church. Subsequent teachers continue to erect the edifice and need to do so with great care. 11–12 Jesus Christ is the only foundation. Building materials can either be of a temporary or lasting kind (though gold, silver and precious stones are not normally used except to adorn the building). 13 Dishonest builders existed in the first century, but there will be the Day of judgment when the facts come to light and the fire tests the materials which have been used. 15 The dishonest builders will see all their work go up in flames, and they themselves will emerge singed. Their salvation is not in question, but their God-given role in the church has been thoroughly discredited by their own activities. 16 In addition to the analogy Paul has used in v 9, he describes the people of God as his sanctuary in which the Spirit dwells.