### 1 Corinthians

## Chapter 3

1However, brothers, I can’t talk to you as I would to spiritual men. Rather, [I must speak to you] as I would to fleshly men (as babies in the Anointed One).  
  
2For I’ve had to feed you milk, not solid food, because you weren’t strong enough… And you’re still not strong enough, 3since you’re still men of the flesh! For whenever you’re jealous and arguing, aren’t you fleshly… Aren’t you acting like men of the flesh?  
  
4So when one of you says, ‘I follow Paul,’ and another says, ‘I follow Apollos,’ aren’t you [proving yourselves] to be men of the flesh? 5For, what is Apollos and what is Paul?  
  
[We’re just] servants through whom you became believers, since you were each given to us by the Lord!  
  
6Yes, although I planted and Apollos watered, it’s God who makes it grow. 7So the one who plants is nothing and the one who waters is nothing, for it’s God who makes it all grow!  
  
8However, those who plant and those who water will each be rewarded for the work that they’re doing. 9Understand that we’re just God’s field hands, while you’re God’s field and God’s house! 10It was only through the loving care of God that I was assigned to be a wise chief craftsman.  
So although I laid the foundation, someone else is actually doing the building… And he must keep an eye on how he’s doing his building, 11because no one can lay a foundation other than the one which has already been laid, Jesus the Anointed.  
  
12Now, whether someone builds on that foundation using gold, silver, and precious stones, or with wood, hay, and stalks, 13[the quality of] his work will show up and be seen in the daytime, since it’ll be exposed by fire… And that fire will prove what kind of work each one has done.  
  
14Then, if his construction remains, he’ll be rewarded. 15But if his construction burns down, he’ll be damaged by the loss… Although he will still be saved. However, it will be as if he came through fire.  
  
16Don’t you know that you’re God’s temple sanctuary? For God’s Breath is dwelling within you! 17And if someone should destroy God’s Most Holy, God will destroy him… Yes, you’re God’s Holiest of Holies!  
  
18Therefore, don’t try to fool yourselves, for if you’re thought of as being wise in this age, then you should become morons in order to be [truly] wise.  
  
19Recognize that the wisdom of this system of things is just silliness to God.  
  
As it’s written:  
  
 ‘He catches the wise in their cunning deeds.’  
  
20And again:  
  
 ‘Jehovah knows what wise men think,  
 [and their thoughts] are useless.’  
 [Psalm 94:11]  
  
21Therefore, nobody should boast about [being followers of] men, since everything already belongs to you, 22whether [it came from] Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or from this system of things, or from life, or from death, or from what’s here or what’s about to come…  
  
All of this already belongs to you!  
  
23Rather, you belong to the Anointed One, and the Anointed One belongs to God.