**Church Planters Beware!**

Many people apply 1 Corinthians 3:5-17 to the life of individual believers, especially those who back-slide. However, this passage is actually a defense of Paul’s church planting ministry and a warning to other church planters. (That is why in verse 16 “you” in the phrase “you are God’s temple” is *plural* indicating that this reference is not talking about an individual’s body being God’s temple but the *group of believers* together is God’s temple.) Paul issues a stern warning to all of us—BE CAREFUL how you do church planting!

**DBS: 1 Cor. 3:5-17**

1) Read the passage above a few times. Then seek to find answers for the following questions:

a) Find three metaphors for the church in this passage. What is the significance of each?

1-

2-

3-

b) What titles does Paul use to refer to himself in his role as a church planter?

c) How does Paul perceive himself compared to Peter, Apollos and “someone else” (v. 10)?

d) What are God’s roles in this whole process according to this passage?

e) What do you think may be some ways that people might build with “gold, silver & costly stones”? What are some ways people might build using “wood, hay or straw”?

f) What does Paul say will happen to those who are not careful how they do church planting? What do you think this means?

2) Discussion & application

a) What most impressed you from this passage and discussion?

b) What do you think God might want you to do differently based on this study?