

Family Unity

1 Corinthians 3.1-23

1. What was the last childish thing you remember giving up?

2. If someone were to label you a 'spiritual infant', what might they be saying? What type of behavior might attract such a label?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 and try and define what Paul means by 'infancy in Christ'.

4. What expectations does Paul have for Christian people? Are these expectations that you aspire to? Why or why not?

5. Read verses 5-9. According to Paul, how does ministry work? Draw the various elements together in a diagram.

6. Have you seen this pattern at work yourself? What is your own part that you are playing?

7. Why does the above pattern of ministry challenge what was happening in the Corinthian church?

8. Read verses 10-15. What principles for building the church are laid out here? What warning does Paul have for us? What might be some examples of shoddy church workmanship?

9. Read verses 16-17. How is the church described here? Is this the image that usually comes to mind when you think of your church?

10. How might someone destroy 'God's temple'? What is in store for them if they do? What does it tell us about God's love for the church?

11. Read verses 18-20 and describe Paul's advice in your own words. What steps are involved in becoming 'fools'? According to verses 21-23 what do we gain by becoming fools?

12. Pray God will help us mature as Christians and that we might aspire to be more than 'merely human' and more than 'spiritual infants'. Thank God for the church, and pray he will help you build it well.

Questions for the whole family

1. What's something good about getting older?

2. How do the Corinthians need to 'grow up' as Christians? (verses 1-4)

3. How is belonging to a church like belonging to a team? (verses 5-9)

4. How might you play your part on the church team?