

THE LORD'S CHURCH

I Corinthians 3:5-15

Introduction:

1. Most of the problems that ever occur in the church are over ownership.
2. Who owns the church? – The Lord Jesus owns the church for he alone birthed, bought, and redeemed it with His blood.
3. It is the Lord's church; therefore, be careful how we treat things that belong to another—especially the Lord!
4. As we are continually preparing to let the Lord build His church through us, and yea in spite of us, there are 5 ingredients that must continually go into the precious mix of Christ and His church.

I. (vv. 5-10) **WHAT IS THE RIGHT ATTITUDE?**

1. (vv. 5-7b) Eliminate the wrong attitude of evaluating man's goodness.
 - A. Evaluating who is more important to the kingdom is God's job, not ours.
 - B. God judges according to what we do with what we possess.
 - C. Look at the example of Drive Thomas and Mr. Driggers.
 - D. Look at the example of Mrs. Stillinger and Mrs. Mary Crider.
 - E. What are we doing with the talents and abilities God has lain before us?
 - F. It's the servant attitude that God blesses.
2. (vv. 8a-10) Eliminate the wrong attitude in forgetting man's oneness.
 - A. (v. 8a) We are one in our service.
 - B. (v. 9) We are one with our Savior.
 - C. (v. 10) We are one with Christ and each other in continual service.

[The Lord's church must have the right attitude, now]

II. (v. 8b) **JESUS WILL HAVE THE RIGHT REWARD.**

1. We all rejoice in the work of the Lord.
2. The Lord rewards our individual work of the Lord in eternity & here.
3. In Rev. 22:12, Jesus said, ***Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to give to every man according as his work shall be.***

[The Lord's church, His Reward, now]

III. (v. 11) **WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT FOUNDATION.**

1. He is the only sufficient One.
2. He is the only eternal, standing One.
3. Matthew 16:18 – ***Upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

[The Right Attitude, Reward, Foundation, now]

IV. (vv. 12-13) **WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT MATERIAL.**

1. (v. 12a) Build with the imperishable.
2. (v. 12b) Avoid the perishable.
3. (v. 13) Be careful what kind of materials we have God's name on and do in the church, because they may not stand up to God's refining fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

[The Right Attitude, Reward, Foundation, and Materials, now]

V. (vv. 14-15) **WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT PURPOSE.**

1. (v. 14) Build with that which brings rewards.
2. (v. 15) Don't build with that which will be burned.
 - A. (v. 15b) We suffer lost rewards.
 - B. (vv. 15cd) We won't suffer the loss of our souls.

Conclusion:

What do you need to do in order for these 5 ingredients to be continually put into the mix of the Lord's church?