

# Growing Up in Christ: Building on the Right Foundation

## 1 Corinthians 3:1-17 (ESV)

### Student Devotional

This 5-day devotional is here to help you reflect on Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 3:1–17 and get your heart ready for class. It’s short, simple, and practical—perfect for starting your day with God and preparing for the lesson.

## Day 1: Moving Beyond Spiritual Infancy

### Scripture:

**But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ... For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh...? (1 Corinthians 3:1, 3)**

### Think About It:

Paul’s concern for the Corinthian church wasn’t that they had started as spiritual “infants”—that’s normal for new believers. The issue was their refusal to grow. Jealousy, pride, and rivalry signaled that their spiritual lives were more shaped by the world than by Jesus. Likewise, we can stay “stuck” if we’re always chasing the spotlight or holding grudges. How have you handled conflict or jealousy among friends or family lately? Do your actions show a desire to grow up in Christ, or do they reveal areas of immaturity that need the Holy Spirit’s correction?

### Pray It:

Father, open my eyes to any ways I’m still living like a spiritual infant—giving in to pride, jealousy, or an unforgiving spirit. Forgive me and help me hunger for deeper growth in Your Word. Shape my heart so I value spiritual maturity over selfish desires.

Apr 7 – Apr 13, 2025

## **Do It:**

Take a small step toward spiritual “solid food.” Commit to reading one chapter of Scripture each day this week, focusing on what it reveals about Christ’s character. Reflect on how you can adopt that character in your relationships—especially where jealousy or conflict might arise.

## **Day 2: Serving as God’s Co-Laborers**

### **Scripture:**

**What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed... I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (1 Corinthians 3:5–6)**

### **Think About It:**

Apollos and Paul were not celebrities; they were servants. They each played a role—planting seeds, watering them—but none of them could make faith grow in a believer’s heart. Only God can transform lives. This perspective keeps us humble when God uses us to bless others, and it keeps us hopeful when we feel inadequate. Are you tempted to glorify certain leaders or put yourself down because you’re “not as gifted”? Remember, God alone causes growth, and every role matters in His kingdom.

### **Pray It:**

Lord, thank You for allowing me to be part of Your work, however small or large my part may seem. Remind me that I’m called to serve, not to shine. Help me trust You for the results as I plant or water seeds of faith in others.

## **Do It:**

Pick one tangible way you can serve this week—maybe helping a children’s Sunday School

Apr 7 – Apr 13, 2025

class, assisting a neighbor in need, or encouraging someone struggling in their faith. As you serve, silently remind yourself, “God, You bring the growth. I’m just here to plant and water.”

## Day 3: Building on Christ Alone

### Scripture:

**For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)**

### Think About It:

A building is only as secure as its foundation. If our lives rest on fleeting successes, social status, or human approval, we’re setting ourselves up for a collapse when the storms come. Paul reminds us that Jesus is the only foundation that can support our faith long-term. Consider the motivations behind your decisions—are they built on pleasing people, chasing accolades, or maintaining control? Or do they flow from a desire to honor and obey Christ?

### Pray It:

Jesus, I recognize You as the unshakeable foundation of my life. Forgive me for trying to build on empty achievements or personal pride. Anchor my decisions, my hopes, and my worth in You alone.

### Do It:

Take inventory of your daily routines—school, work, friendships, hobbies. Ask, “Is Christ at

Apr 7 – Apr 13, 2025

the center of these, or have I built on something else?” Identify one activity you can realign with Jesus at the center, whether it’s praying over your day before starting work or inviting Christ into the conversations you have with friends.

## Day 4: Investing in What Lasts

### Scripture:

“Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one’s work will become manifest... If the work... survives, he will receive a reward.” (1 Corinthians 3:12–14, ESV)

### Think About It:

Paul contrasts materials that endure—gold, silver, precious stones—with those that don’t survive firewood, hay, straw. This imagery challenges us to assess our spiritual “construction.” Are we pouring our time and energy into efforts that reflect Christ’s love, truth, and eternal values? Or are we content with outward show and shallow devotion that burns away under pressure? It’s easy to get caught up in quick results or self-serving activities, but only what’s deeply rooted in Jesus will stand the test of time.

### Pray It:

God, I want to build with materials that last—love, discipleship, truth, and holiness. Show me where I’m investing in what’s temporary or superficial. Strengthen my resolve to serve You in ways that have eternal significance.

### Do It:

Look at your weekly commitments. Choose one that seems more focused on personal gain than on Christ’s kingdom. Replace or reshape that commitment this week to prioritize

Apr 7 – Apr 13, 2025

eternal values—perhaps by volunteering in a ministry, encouraging a new believer, or reaching out to someone who needs prayer.

## Day 5: Honoring God’s Temple—Together

### Scripture:

“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? ...God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.” (1 Corinthians 3:16–17, ESV)

### Think About It:

While it’s true that each believer is a “temple of the Holy Spirit,” Paul’s emphasis here is on the collective body of Christ. The way we treat each other—especially how we handle conflict, gossip, or factions—matters deeply because God’s Spirit resides in our midst. Do you approach church relationships with the same respect you’d show in a sacred space? When we honor one another and maintain unity, we protect what God calls holy.

### Pray It:

Lord, help me to see my brothers and sisters in Christ as part of Your holy dwelling. Teach me to guard unity, speak words of life, and promote an atmosphere of reverence and love. May our church community truly reflect Your holiness to the world.

### Do It:

Pay attention this week to your words and attitudes in your church family. If you catch yourself gossiping or contributing to division, stop and pray instead. Consider sending a

Apr 7 – Apr 13, 2025

thoughtful note or text to someone in your church, expressing appreciation or encouraging them in their ministry.

## You're Ready for Class!

Over these five days, you've explored the themes of spiritual growth, humble service, solid foundations, eternal investments, and honoring God's collective temple. Like a construction project, our faith can start messy—but built on Christ, it rises into something resilient and beautiful. Come to class ready to share what you've learned about real maturity: choosing Christ as your foundation, focusing on what lasts, and safeguarding the sacred unity of His body. Let's keep growing up in Christ, one step at a time.

## Before We Gather

- Think of a time when you or someone you know relied on talent, personality, or worldly success as a “foundation.” What happened when pressures or conflicts arose?
- Think about a time you were part of a group or ministry that became more focused on personalities than on Christ. What specific action steps could you have taken to steer the focus back to spiritual growth?
- Reflect on a situation where you (or your church) overly credited a pastor or leader for growth. What practical step can you take today to ensure God gets the glory for any spiritual fruit you see?
- Consider your current ministry involvement or personal spiritual habits. Which “building materials” might be more like wood or straw, and how can you replace them with enduring, Christ-centered efforts?

Apr 7 – Apr 13, 2025

- How have you seen disunity threaten a church's health? What tangible step could you take—this week—to promote harmony, knowing the church is God's sacred temple?