

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **For the Good of the Church (1 Corinthians 3:9-17)**

Date: **May 1, 2016**

Last week we learned that the church is built as we serve in the body of Christ. We must use the diverse gifts and abilities that God has given us to serve one another. All of us have a role to play in the building up of the body of Christ. However, as we seek to build the church, we must know how to build the church *properly*. The foundation has already been laid and we have been called to build on it. Some build on the foundation with wood, hay, and straw but we must seek to build on it with gold, silver, and precious stones. When it's all said and done, the former will burn up but the latter will last and endure the fire. Those who's work survives will be rewarded. The kingdom of God demands our utmost respect and thus we must give it our absolute best. In this week's study, we will learn how to properly build the church. We will also be able to apply some of these principles to our lives, our marriages, and our families.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

**Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. In this passage, there is terminology used that alludes back to the Old Testament temple. What was the significance of the Old Testament temple? How did the Old Testament temple foreshadow the church?
  - b. What is the temple now? What does this teach us about the importance of building the church properly?
  - c. The church's foundation was laid by Paul and the apostles (verse 11). What is an apostle? Are there any more apostles to come? Why or why not?
  - d. What is the foundation that the apostles laid for the church? Why is it reliable? Why is this foundation all we need?
  - e. What is the significance of the wood, hay, and straw (verse 12)? What is the significance of the gold, silver, and precious stones (verse 12)? Where do we get this terminology from?
  - f. What are some bad ways to build the church? What are some bad ways to build our lives, marriages, and families?

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



- g. What are the good ways to build the church? What are the good ways to build our lives, marriages, and families?
- h. In verse 15, what does it mean that those whose work is burned up “will be saved, but only as through fire”?
- i. How do we properly measure success in a church? Is sincerity enough to build the church properly?
- j. What do verses 16-18 teach us about the person of the Holy Spirit?
- k. What are some ways that one can destroy the church? Why are disunity and divisive behaviour so destructive to the body of Christ? What will God do to people who destroy the church?

**Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What are some bad ways we might be tempted to build up the church? What are some false ways we can measure the success of the church?
3. What can you and I do to properly build the church? How do we rightly measure the success of the church?
4. Do you have a high level of respect for the church? How should our respect and adoration for the church determine the way we use our time, our gifts, our money, etc.?
5. As you consider your God-given responsibility to the church, how does this passage challenge you to serve and contribute in the body of Christ? If you are serving and contributing, how does this passage encourage you?