

“STUNTED GROWTH IN THE CHURCH”

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

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1 Corinthians 3:3-4

³ for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

1 Corinthians 3:5-7

⁵ Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:8

Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

- **Unspiritual believers**

1 Corinthians 3:1

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

Hebrews 5:12

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

- **Unspiritual believers**
- **Unable to grow**

1 Corinthians 3:2

I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

Hebrews 5:13-14

¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- **Unspiritual believers**
- **Unable to grow**
- **Unable to agree**

1 Corinthians 3:3-4

³ for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

Proverb 6:16-19

¹⁶ These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

- **Unspiritual believers**
- **Unable to grow**
- **Unable to agree**
- **Problem: Human wisdom**

1 Corinthians 3:5

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

Galatians 6:3

For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

- **Solutions**

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

6 I planted, Apollos watered,
but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither he who plants
is anything, nor he who waters,
but God who gives the
increase.

Solutions

- Principles based on God's Word

Solutions

- Principles based on God's Word
- Partnership with God

Solutions

- Principles based on God's Word
- Partnership with God
- Partnership with fellow believers

- **Solutions**
- **Result: True Growth**

1 Corinthians 3:8

Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

- **Solutions**
- **Result: True Growth**
- **Reward**

1 Corinthians 3:8

Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Psalm 62:12

Also to You, O Lord, belongs
mercy; For You render to each
one according to his work.