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November 11 & 14, 2021
Week 1 – The Temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16)

Introduction:

John 3:16
1 Corinthians 3:16

The Context:

1 Corinthians 3:1
1 Corinthians 3:17
1 Corinthians 3:5-6
1 Corinthians 3:21

Three Realities to Take Home...

1. Spiritual maturity is _____ by grace...and there is no other means.

“Brothers and sisters (v. 1)...you are of Christ (v. 23)

2. Spiritual leadership is _____ to God...and He deserves all the glory.

“...neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God (v. 7)...So then, no more boasting about human leaders! (v. 21)

3. Spiritual unity is _____ to God...and we are called to maintain it.

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temp (v. 16)...for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple (v. 17)

The Big Idea:

Ephesians 4:3

We...individually AND collectively...are the temple of God. May we never destroy (shrivel, wither or spoil) it through divisiveness.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." In your own personal spiritual journey, can you remember a time when you participated – actively or passively – in a lack of unity among the Body of Christ?
2. Why do you think God takes the unity of His family so seriously? Discuss...

Ponderings:

3. Give a concrete example of Christian unity that you have personally witness or been a part of even though there may have been theological disagreement...
4. In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul specifically mentions the issues of "jealousy," "quarrelling" and dividing around the popularity of certain leaders. Have you ever been caught up in these types of divisions? What did God teach you through that experience?
5. 1 Corinthians teaches us that we (individually) are the temple of God Spirit, but also that we (corporately) are His temple. How is it possible for us to be "many" and "one" all at the same time?
6. What is the difference between true spiritual unity and "uniformity?" Why is unity a biblical virtue, whereas uniformity might not be?

Promptings:

7. Think about the way you steward God's temple. Is there an attitude or behavior in your life that could change in order to more fully yield the temple to God's glory? Discuss...