

# Church in the Community part 4

## Maintaining our focus - 1 Corinthians 3

### 1. As a Family – My focus is to build up maturity in the Church

“Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn’t talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren’t ready for anything stronger. And you still aren’t ready, <sup>3</sup> for you are still controlled by your sinful nature.” 1 Cor 3:1-3

#### i. **Feed on the Word of God**

Milk - 1 Pet 2:2, Bread – Matt 4:4, meat – Heb 5:11-14, honey – Ps 119:103

#### ii. **Encourage others in the Word**

“I had to feed you with milk...” v 2

#### iii. **Let God’s Spirit grow you**

“You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn’t that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren’t you living like people of the world? <sup>4</sup> When one of you says, “I am a follower of Paul,” and another says, “I follow Apollos,” aren’t you acting just like people of the world?” v 3-4

#### iv. **Develop a servant heart**

“We are only God’s servants through whom you believed the Good News.” v 5b

**Outcome: Warm fellowship**

### 2. As a Field – My focus is on God, who makes it grow

“What’s important is that God makes the seed grow...And you are God’s field.” v 7b & 9

#### i. **Understand God gives a different role to everyone**

“Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. <sup>6</sup> I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it...” v 5-6

#### ii. **Recognise every part is vital – humility**

“It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering.” v 7

#### iii. **Be united in purpose**

“<sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose.” v 8

**Outcome: Joy of fruitful service**

### 3. As a temple – My focus is on the quality of our work

“Don’t you realise that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?” v 16

#### i. **Right foundation – Christ**

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.” v 11

#### ii. **Sound doctrine**

“Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. <sup>13</sup> But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. <sup>14</sup> If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.” v 12-15

“<sup>18</sup> Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world’s standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise. <sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.” v 18-19

#### iii. **Right attitude**

“<sup>21</sup> So don’t boast about following a particular human leader. For everything belongs to you— <sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Peter, or the world, or life and death, or the present and the future. Everything belongs to you, <sup>23</sup> and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.” v 21

**Outcome: Receive God’s Reward**