

Foundations Bible Study – I Corinthians
Lesson 2

Scripture Readings:

- **I Corinthians Chapters 3 through 7**

Lesson

To start chapter 3 Paul writes, “I will have to talk to you like babies, because you still are drinking milk. I can tell this by the way you fight all the time.” (3:1-4) Well, it seems Paul is a little bit agitated. This reminds me of three boys in the back seat of the car and how my parents felt when we arrived at our destination. They were so upset many times they said, “Why can’t you guys just GROW UP!” I think that is the message Paul has for us still today. We get to acting like babies, our feelings get hurt, our buttons get pushed, our rooms get used, our money is gone and our time is wasted. First thing you know I get agitated and a little testy. Paul and my mom are right, I need to grow up. Do you need to grow up at times when dealing with people, or even when dealing with your church family?

Next we see an important concept that Paul uses often in his writings: We are the temple of God. (3:16-17) The point is well made and important to our physical and spiritual lives. We need to see our selves as God sees us, as special and sacred persons created by God. When we do that it should change our lives and how we relate to a multitude of situations and people in our lives.

In the middle of chapter 4 Paul moves to warnings, let’s look together at what he shares with us. The first one is arrogance. When we become arrogant as Christians it is not a pretty site to behold. We become closed minded and very judgmental. We lose sight of the Gospel and begin living the Law. We are lost in a sea of pride and find no room for grace to abound. Paul is right to warn us, lose the attitude of arrogance.

Warning #2 is the matter of lawsuits in the church. Wow.... Remember a year and a half ago. Right here in Greene County. Is that what Paul is talking about? I don’t think so. I think it goes back to chapter 3 and the back seat. Again Paul says why can’t you just grow up in the Lord and live in peace together, at least with the people in the church. I would have to say AMEN to that.

The third warning is scattered throughout the readings for this lesson and behold, it is the warning against sexual immorality. Paul is very concerned about this and the reasons may be many and varied. We are living in a world where sex is..... Well it is not good what is going on. In the writing of the entire Bible we are warned and warned over and over about what happens when immorality reigns in society. This warning is not just for a certain group of folks but for us all. Again it seems to me the message is: why can’t you all just grow up, be adults, be happy and satisfied.

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Paul then addresses marriage. It is kind of strange, what is going on here? Many scholars have debated and surmised what Paul has going on. It seems to be Freudian moment here to me. I do not think Paul's message is against marriage, but it is hard to tell. One thing we can say is marriage is serious commitment and should not be taken lightly. What else Paul is saying I'm not sure.

Finally I want to include a little about verse 12 in chapter 6. This will be addressed more fully in the coming chapter about food, but for now we can begin to see the responsibility that comes with freedom. We may be free to do many things with and in our daily lives, but are all these things beneficial? What can you do to benefit the Kingdom of God? How can you live to promote the love of Christ to a world that needs love so? We are free indeed with Christ as our Savior yet we need always be very careful to live our lives in beneficial ways each day.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. When you see yourself as God sees you, what changes have happened in our life? Can you give an example?
2. What are some warnings you think the church needs today? And why?
3. Are there ways our freedoms are misused in the faith, or our country?