

A Heavenly Surprise

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 3:10 - 4:21)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, October 18th, 2015

Unity again???

(1 Corinthians 1-4, John 13:34-35, Matthew 22:36-40)

A Strategy for Spirituality: (1 Corinthians 3:1-9)

- **Go Along ...**
(John 14:15)
- **Get Along ...**
(1 Corinthians 13:1-7)

A Summary of Our Final Audit:

(1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Revelation 7:17, 21:4)

- **Our judgment will include both ...**
(2 Cor. 5:9-10, Matthew 27:19, Matthew 6:19-20, 2 Tim. 4:8)
- **Our judgment will address both ...**
(Matthew 6:1-18)

Why We Should Get Along with Family:

(1 Corinthians 3:16 - 4:21, Luke 18:9-14)

1. **When we don't get along, we vandalize ...**
(1 Cor 3:16-17)
2. **When we think we're superior, we ...**
(1 Cor 3:18-23, 4:6)
3. **One day our own ... will be addressed.** (1 Cor 4:1-5)
4. **Everything we take pride in we ...**
(1 Cor 4:7-21)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

This is 'week 6' of our 11 weeks we will be getting together to pray for one another and study God's Word together. Our last meeting this quarter will be the week of November 22nd just before Thanksgiving.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday's message from our study of 1 Corinthians focused on the importance of 'getting along' as members of the Body of Christ and on how to best prepare for our 'final audit' with God that includes both our salvation and stewardship.

Before we focus in on these two topics, read again 1 Corinthians 3:10. Paul refers to how he planted the church in Corinth and how others are investing their time to further nurture and develop the church in Corinth.

Who was instrumental in leading you to Christ?

After you accepted Christ, who else built on that foundation that you are thankful for?

Bob mentioned a trophy he received as part of a little league team. Looking back, what was an accomplishment (whether you received a trophy or not) that you are proud of as a child? Who helped make that moment special for you?

To help us start our Bible study/discussion together, looking back at your notes from Sunday, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, encouraged you or raised a question as we heard a message from 1 Corinthians 3:10 - 4:21?

Digging Deeper:

1. This week we learned that the judgment (our final audit when we die or when Jesus comes back) will actually be a time of both reward and loss. The rewards we receive will be directly related to what we do here on earth - our actions and our motives. Read the following Scriptures that highlight what things will bring a promised heavenly reward.

Hebrews 11:6

Colossians 3:23-25

Luke 6:32-36

Matthew 5:11-12

How do these verses add to, change or confirm your understanding of spiritual rewards and their pursuit?

2. Have you ever stopped to think about how important it is for us to simply get along with those in the Body of Christ? Colossians 3:1-17 gives us insight into how we are to treat each other. Read the passage and make a list of behaviors and character traits that we are to 'put to death' or get rid of.

How can we go beyond suppressing or controlling these things and work on removing them (or getting real close) from our lives?

How could 'setting your mind on things above' (v2) play a part in answering this question?

From Colossians 3:12-14 make a list of the things Paul tells us to 'put on' or start doing.

What would it look like for you to 'clothe yourself' like this and how would it impact your current relationships with others?

3. Romans 12 is another chapter that gives us a lot of practical teaching on how to use our gifts and treat one another. Read the passage (Romans 12:1-21) and pay special attention to verses 3-8.

How do you think pride and looking down on others damages God's family?

4. In Romans 12:3 encourages us to see ourselves with 'sober judgment'. What does that look like to see yourself that way?

WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our small group meeting?