



# WOODLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## The Cornerstone Effect Part #3 – The Cornerstone of Generosity

### Small Group Discussion Guide on 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

#### Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 directly connects with the core value of **Outreach** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. This core value is about equipping your life with the Word of God so that you can reach others with the Word of God and make an eternal impact with your life.

This sermon emphasizes building our lives on the unshakeable foundation of Jesus Christ, choosing materials that endure eternal testing, and prioritizing actions that echo into eternity for God's glory.

This core value encourages believers to view life's choices—such as how we invest our time, talent, and treasure—through the lens of Scripture, fostering an eternal perspective that aligns our daily decisions with God's sovereign plan. By focusing on the challenge to make Christ the Cornerstone, the sermon urges individuals to adopt a worldview rooted in biblical truth, reshaping your priorities to build a legacy that withstands the fire of judgment and produces lasting kingdom impact in reaching others for the Lord.

#### Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

##### “Observing God's Word”

Imagine you're constructing a towering structure on a rugged coastline, where fierce winds and crashing waves test every brick and beam. Without a solid cornerstone, the entire edifice crumbles under pressure.

As you read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Paul's words are like that unyielding cornerstone, anchoring our lives in Christ amid the storms of ambition, division, and fleeting pursuits. As you read this passage, notice how Paul urges believers to build wisely, using materials that endure the refining fire of God's judgment, pointing us to a life of eternal significance.

Let's start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (ESV) as a group, family, or an individual, letting God's Word sink in. Picture the scene: Paul writing to a divided church in Corinth, reminding them that every life is a building project tested by fire.

##### Core Questions

- What do you notice about the key words and imagery in this passage? Why is this relevant?
- What do you learn about God's character from this passage?
- How do these verses challenge you as a Christian when it comes to your choices?

## Section #2 – EXPLORE

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### “Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

Let’s unpack the sermon’s foundational truth – “The Wise Build their Life on the Cornerstone... Seeking to Give Glory to God with Actions that Echo into Eternity” – and the three pillars of a life focused on eternal impact. Discuss these as a group or reflect on them as an individual.

**Quote** – “In that day, the full truth about our lives, character, and deeds will be made clear. We will discover the real verdict on our lives, our service, and our motives.” – **John MacArthur**

- What does the quote from John MacArthur teach us today? Why is this an important lesson to remember?

#### ***Pillar #1 – Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:10-11)***

Paul writes, “According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:10-11). The sermon highlights the foundation as the starting point, emphasizing that Christ alone must be the Cornerstone of our time, talent, and treasure.

- How does Paul’s warning to “take care how you build” encourage you in your walk with God?
- Have you ever experienced a moment where God realigned your foundation to focus on Christ?
- In what ways does 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 encourage you as a Christian today?

#### ***Pillar #2 – Faith (1 Corinthians 3:12-13)***

“Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done” (1 Corinthians 3:12-13). Paul’s imagery shows that the materials we choose in life will be tested, revealing what endures for eternity.

- What does this teach us about the power of building our lives with eternal investments in mind?
- How can you invest your time, talent, and treasure boldly for God’s kingdom, even if you feel inadequate?

**Quote** – “No man can flee from God. He may run, but God is already where he is going.” – **A.W. Tozer**

- How does the quote from A.W. Tozer apply to these verses?

#### ***Pillar #3 – Freedom (1 Corinthians 3:14-15)***

“If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire” (1 Corinthians 3:14-15). Believers’ works will face judgment, but salvation remains secure for those in Christ.

- What does this reveal about the relationship between our earthly actions and eternal rewards?
- How can we cultivate a heart that builds for God's glory in our daily lives?

## Section #3 – EMBRACE

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### “Applying God's Word”

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you've learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

- **Examine Your Foundation:** Think of an area in your life where Christ may not be the Cornerstone—your time, talent, or treasure. It could be a busy schedule, a hidden ambition, or a financial priority. Write down one specific step you can take this week to realign it with Jesus as your foundation.
- **Invest Eternally:** Like the precious materials that endure fire, identify one way to invest in God's kingdom this week. It could be giving generously, serving in your church, or sharing your faith. Spend a moment in prayer, asking God to reveal opportunities and help you build with gold, silver, and precious stones.
- **Share Your Legacy:** Paul's words sparked a reminder of eternal impact. Commit to sharing a testimony or an encouraging word about building on Christ with someone this week. Discuss with the group how you can encourage each other to live with an eternal perspective.
- **Memorize and Reflect:** Memorize the sermon's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV): “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Reflect on how making Christ your Cornerstone shapes your daily choices and invites His grace into your life. Share with the group how this verse challenges or inspires you.

### Closing Challenge and Prayer

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As a group, pray for one another to build wisely on the foundation of Christ, just as Paul urged. Encourage each member to take at least one of the action steps above and follow up next week to share how God worked through their obedience. Consider participating in a Sunday School class or inviting someone new to join your small group to continue growing in faith together.