

**WEEK 2:**

**DAY 1: WE MUST TEACH THE DEEP WISDOM OF GOD**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

1. Paul had many things to write to the Christians at Corinth. He wrote these things for us as well. We have learned that Paul gave thanks for the grace of God given to the Corinthians. But he was sad about the divisions among them. We have learned that there are two kinds of wisdom—the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God.

From yesterday's lesson, what is the big subject which we should preach about?

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What power did Paul depend on when he preached? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The big subject we should preach about is Jesus dying on the cross. Like Paul, we should depend on the power of the Holy Spirit when we preach. Now let us see more things which Paul taught about the wisdom of God. This is what we will learn today:

- (1) The unspiritual man cannot understand the things of God.
- (2) A preacher should teach the older Christians the deep wisdom of God.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 2:6 to 16. Read verses 14 and 15 again. What two kinds of men are talked about in these verses?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
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3. These verses talk about the unspiritual man and the spiritual man. It is important for us to understand what these words mean. A spiritual man is a man who is a Christian. He has been born again by the Spirit of God. He receives gifts from God. He understands the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14:

The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned (or seen).

From this verse, do you think that the unspiritual man is a Christian?

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4. In this verse, the unspiritual man does not seem to be a Christian. He has not believed in Jesus Christ. He has not opened his heart to the Holy Spirit. These verses teach that this man cannot understand the things of God. He thinks that the teachings of the Bible are foolish. Later Paul says that an unspiritual man is also a Christian who does not go on with God.

Nyobi is the youth leader in a church. He often witnesses to people who are not Christians. Sometimes these people laugh at him. They say they do not understand how God can love sinful people. They cannot understand how believing in Jesus can bring new life.

What does Paul call a person who cannot understand the things of God?

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5. Paul calls him an unspiritual man.

1 Corinthians 2:12:

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God.

What can the unspiritual man not understand?

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6. He cannot understand the things of God. But the spiritual man can understand.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11:

... God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him? So also no one comprehends (or understands) the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Who cannot understand the things of God?

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Who will help us to understand the things of God?

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7. The unspiritual man cannot understand. It is the Spirit of God who will help us understand the things of God. The unspiritual man has not been born again by the Spirit. He has not received the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12:

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on (or given to) us by God.

John 14:26:

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

As we have learned, what power did Paul depend on when he was preaching?

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8. We should depend on the Holy Spirit when we preach. This is very important because it is the Holy Spirit who will make sinners into spiritual men. Then he will help them to understand the things of God. Paul depended on the Holy Spirit when he preached.

1 Corinthians 2:13:

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting (or explaining) spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit.

What kind of man cannot understand the things of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. The unspiritual man cannot understand the things of God. But think of the people in your church. Many of them are Christians. They have been born again by the Spirit of God. They are following God. They are spiritual men and they can understand. They need to be taught spiritual truths.

Look again at what Paul said. He said that he explained spiritual truths to those who had the Spirit.

Do you think that all pastors should be doing this kind of work? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. I think this is work which all shepherds should do. A pastor is a teacher. Teaching the Christians in the church is part of his work. Paul says that we should teach older Christians the deep wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 2:7:

But we impart (or teach) a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed (or planned) before the ages for our glorification.

Look carefully at this verse. Were the things Paul taught simple things or deep things?

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11. The things Paul taught were not just simple things. They were deep things. Some of them were hidden things. This means they were not easy to understand. Now look at the kind of people to whom Paul taught these things.

1 Corinthians 2:6:

Yet among the mature (or older Christians) we do impart (or teach) wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age.

To what kind of people did Paul teach the deep wisdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. He taught the deep wisdom of God to mature or older Christians. Think of it this way. When there is a baby at your house, you feed him milk. You do not give a baby big pieces of meat. But when a child grows and becomes a man, he must sometimes have meat. In the same way, a new Christian needs simple teaching. But as the person grows in his spirit, the shepherd must give him another kind of teaching.

Are there mature Christians in your church? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of teaching do you think they need? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. In most churches, there are both new and older Christians. The new Christians need simple teaching at first. But the older Christians need deep teaching. They need teaching of the deep wisdom of God. If the preacher wants to give this kind of teaching he must study much. It is hard work to study the Bible and give people the deep wisdom of God which will help them.

Who will help you understand the secret and hidden wisdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. The Holy Spirit will help us understand this. When we pray and ask for his help, he will help us to understand the Bible. He will also help us to teach our people.

From 1 Corinthians 2:13, what should a pastor teach the older Christians in his church?

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15. He should teach them the deep wisdom of God. He should not just teach them to confess sin. He should teach them to overcome sin. He should not just teach them to pray for themselves. He should teach them to pray for many other people. He should not just teach them to come to church. He should teach them to go out and work for God. He should not just teach them the things which God has done. He should also teach what God will do in future as the prophets foretold.

What kind of person cannot understand the things of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. The unspiritual man cannot understand the things of God at all. But the Christian can understand as the Holy Spirit helps him. The Holy Spirit will help you to understand the deep wisdom of God. He will help you teach these things so your people will grow spiritually.

Write one deep teaching which you would like to understand better and teach to your people.

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17. Be ready to give your answer in class.

What kind of person cannot understand the wisdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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From 1 Corinthians 2:13, what should a pastor teach the older Christians in his church?

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**WEEK 2**

**DAY 2 MEN OF THE FLESH ARE BABIES IN CHRIST**

**1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

1. We have seen that Paul loved the Christians at Corinth. He thanked God for them. But they needed more teaching. That is why Paul wrote them this letter. Now Paul has some hard words to say to them. We will see what he said to them in chapter 3. But first let us remember the teachings from yesterday.

What kind of person cannot understand the wisdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

From 1 Corinthians 2:13, what should a pastor teach the older Christians in his church?

2. The unspiritual man cannot understand the wisdom of God. But each pastor should study the Bible so he can teach older Christians the deep wisdom of God.

Now let us see what Paul called the people in the church at Corinth.

1 Corinthians 3:1:

But I, bretheren, could not address you (or write to you) as spiritual men, but as men of the flesh, as babes in Christ.

Was Paul writing to Christians or unbelievers at Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Paul call the people he was writing to? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Paul was writing to Christians. He called them brethren, but he also called them "men of the flesh" and "babes in Christ." All these answers are right. Today we will learn the two things Paul calls Christians who are fighting in the church:

- (1) Men of the flesh
- (2) Babies in Christ

Do you think Paul liked to call these people men of the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_

4. I do not think he liked to do this. Paul wanted to write to them as spiritual men, but he could not. This is because they were not living as spiritual men. They were fighting among themselves. There were divisions in the church.

These people were Christians. Paul called them "brethren". But they were Christians who were not following God as they should. They were following their own flesh or the desires of their bodies.

What did Paul call the Christian brethren when they fought in the church and followed their own flesh?

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5. Paul called them men of the flesh. These are Christians who let sin come into their lives. They do not try to get rid of it. They let the desires of the flesh rule their lives. Sometimes we think men of the flesh are very bad sinners. Or they are people who are not Christians. But Paul says men of the flesh are Christians who let sin come into their lives. You and I can be men of the flesh if we do not let the Holy Spirit rule our lives. Look at the verse again.

1 Corinthians 3:1:

But I, brethren, could not address you as spiritual men, but as men of the flesh, as babes in Christ.

Paul called these brethren men of the flesh. What else did he call them?

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6. Paul also called them babies in Christ. He meant that they had been born again as Christians. They had new life like a baby, but they had not grown. These people had been Christians for a long time. But they still acted like new Christians.

Paul called them babies in Christ. What else did he call them? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Paul called them men of the flesh and babies in Christ. Men of the flesh and babies act in much the same way.

1 Corinthians 3:2-3:

I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not ready for it; and even yet you are not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife (or fighting) among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving like ordinary (or unspiritual) men?

What were the Corinthians doing which showed they were men of the flesh?

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8. They were fighting among themselves. There was jealousy among them. They were thinking of themselves first. This is what a baby does. He wants his own way.

These people were also like babies in the way they understood the Bible. A new baby can only drink milk. It cannot eat solid food or meat. Paul wanted to give these people the deep wisdom of God, but they could not receive it.

Besides calling them men of the flesh, what did Paul call these people?

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9. He called them babies in Christ. They could not receive the deep wisdom of God. There was jealousy among them. They were fighting about leaders in the church.

1 Corinthians 3:4:

For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely men?

What do you think Paul would call people today who cause divisions in the church?

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10. I think he would call them men. of the flesh or babies in Christ. When Christians fight, they are acting like people who are not Christians. They are acting like babies who have not grown up. Here is what a man of the flesh is like:

- He is like a baby.
- He is fed milk.
- He is not ready for solid food.
- He causes jealousy and fighting in the church.
- He acts like an unspiritual man.



Is the man of the flesh a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. It is important to remember that Paul was writing to Christians. These Christians had all the spiritual gifts. But they were not living as they should. They were not growing in spiritual things. What does this say to us? Perhaps we think we are good Christians. We have many spiritual gifts. But if we are not living as we should, the Bible has hard things to say to us.

Remi is a Christian. He is the youth leader in his church. But he is jealous of his pastor. He does not think the pastor is working well. He says bad things about the pastor to other people in the church.

What kind of Christian is Remi? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Remi is a man of the flesh. Netia is a Christian in another church. He has a very good shepherd. His pastor studies the Bible much and teaches the deep things of God. Each week he tells the people new truth from the Bible about how they should live. Netia does not like this. He does not want to make changes in his life. He only wants to hear the old things. Netia is a man of flesh.

What else would Paul call Netia? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Paul would also call him a baby in Christ. He does not want spiritual meat. He only wants milk. This is a problem in some churches today. Some Christians do not want spiritual meat. They are like the Christians at Corinth. But let us remember that when Christians do not eat strong food they act like men of the flesh. When Christians do not study the word of God in the right way, they begin to fight. When they study the Bible much, there is little fighting in the church.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 3:4 to 9. What were the Christians at Corinth fighting about?

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14. They were fighting about leaders in the church. Paul says that the leaders have different kinds of work. But they are equal. Their work is like the work of a farmer. Some leaders must plough some must plant, some must water, and some must harvest. This is how our churches should be today. Each leader has work to do. God will reward each leader not by which work he does but by how well he does his work. The people of the church should not fight over the work of leading the church.

1 Corinthians 3:8-9:

He who plants and he who waters are equal, and each shall receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

What two things does Paul call Christians who are jealous and fight in the church?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

15. He calls them men of the flesh and babies in Christ. Here are things which some Christians do. Write spiritual man beside the good things. Write man of the flesh beside the bad things.

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|-------|---|
| _____ | I speak evil of my pastor because he asks people to give money to the church.         |
| _____ | I feel bad if I cannot lead the songs in church every Sunday.                         |
| _____ | I read my Bible for 30 minutes each day and try to get new food from it.              |
| _____ | I think that many people in my church are bad. I tell these bad things to my friends. |
| _____ | When people do wrong things to me, I pay them back for what they have done.           |
| _____ | I like our pastor because he gives deep teachings about our lives every Sunday.       |

16. We will talk about these answers in class

What two things does Paul call Christians who are jealous and fight in the church?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 2**

**DAY 3 WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**1 Corinthians 3:10-23**

1. Yesterday we talked about Christians who are jealous and cause divisions in the church.

What two things does Paul call such people?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Paul calls them men of the flesh and babies in Christ. But God does not want us to be like this. He wants us to grow and become strong. He wants us to be spiritual people. Paul explained to the Corinthians that we Christians are God's building. Today let us learn two things Paul taught about this.

(1) God will judge with fire the lives of Christians.

(2) Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

We will also memorise this verse:

1 Corinthians 3:11:

For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

From this verse, who is the foundation for our Christian lives? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jesus Christ is our foundation. Paul said that the life of a Christian is like a building. The way a Christian lives for God is like a man putting up a house. When we build a house, we first make the land ready. We clear the land and make a foundation. If we want to build a strong house of stone and cement, we dig in the ground and put in stones. We call this the foundation. Jesus is the foundation for our spiritual lives. Read again what Paul said.

1 Corinthians 3:11:

For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Take time to memorise this verse now. Read it three times. Then look up and try to say it. When you can say it without looking at it, write it here.

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4. If we want a strong building, we must have a good foundation. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian life. Some people try to build their lives on the old customs of the people. Some try to build their lives on what the spirit of the ancestors say. But Christians must build on what Jesus said and did.

There are many parts to a house. The foundation is only the beginning. We must have walls. We must have windows and doors. We must have a roof.

1 Corinthians 3:10:

Let each man take care how he builds upon it (the foundation).

Who must be careful how he builds on the foundation Jesus Christ?

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5. Each man who is a Christian is building on the foundation, Jesus Christ. Every Christian must be careful how he does this. Some day our buildings will be tested with fire.

There are many ways to build a house. There are different kinds of houses. Some have cement walls and iron roofs. Others have mud walls and grass roofs. In the same way, there are many ways to build our Christian lives. Paul says there are different things we can build with.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 3:12 to 17. Read verse 13 again and think carefully about this question. Who chooses the things we use for building our Christian lives?

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6. We are the ones who choose. It is up to each Christian to decide how he builds his life. He chooses the things to build with. He decides how he will live for God.

1 Corinthians 3:13:

each man's work will become manifest (or shown); for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

From this verse, what will God use to test our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. God will use fire to test our lives. Some day Christ will test and judge us. We know that a house can be built with different things. We can easily find "wood, hay and stubble." These are like poles and grass. A Christian who builds his life with these things does not work well for God. He is lazy. He does not overcome sin in his life. He does not work hard in the church. He does not help others. He spends his time getting more things for himself. Paul says that these things do not please God. He is showing what God will do with these things.

What will happen if you put poles and grass into the fire? \_\_\_\_\_

What will God some day test with fire? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. If we put poles and grass into the fire, they will burn. Nothing will be left. Our lives will some day be tested with fire. They will be judged. If we have been lazy, nothing will be left of the work of our lives. Nothing will be left if we have been careless about doing God's will. If we put fighting into our lives instead of work for the church, our building will be burned up.

Who will test our lives with fire? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. God will test the life of every Christian.

Romans 14:10:

For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of God.

If we put poles and grass into the fire, they are destroyed. When God judges the Christian who has not built well, what will happen to his building?

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10. His building will be destroyed. But what about the other things Paul wrote about? It is hard to find gold, silver and precious stones. It takes much hard work to find them. A Christian who builds with these things works hard and is faithful. He lives a holy life. He overcomes sin in his life. He does not cause division in the church. He puts love and peace and witnessing into his building.

Will gold, silver, and stones be destroyed if we put them into the fire?

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11. Gold, silver and precious stones are not destroyed by fire. They will stand God's test. The life of a Christian who builds well will also stand the test. God will judge all Christians. This testing is not to see if they go to heaven or hell. No, this testing is to see if a Christian has put good things into his life.

1 Corinthians 3:14-15:

If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives (or stands), he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

From this verse, what will a Christian receive if his life stands the test of fire?

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12. He will receive a reward. And even if the house is made of poles and grass, the foundation will not burn. Any person who builds his life on Christ will be saved. But if he puts good things into his life, he will receive a reward.

Now we want to learn another thing about ourselves. The Holy Spirit wants to live in our bodies.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17:

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

What do these verses say we are? \_\_\_\_\_

What will God use to test our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. God will use fire to test our lives. We are God's temple. A temple is a very special kind of building. It is a place where God lives. It is a place for worship. It is a place to bring glory to God. Our bodies are temples. Look at the verse again.

1 Corinthians 3:16:

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells (or lives) in you?

From this verse, who lives in the temple which is our body? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. God's Spirit lives in the body of a Christian. Perhaps you think, "This is my body I can do with it what I want. The church building where I go on Sunday is the place where God lives." But this is not what the Bible teaches. We belong to God. Our bodies belong to him. The Holy Spirit wants to live in our bodies.

What do these verses call the building, your body, where the Holy Spirit lives?

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15. These verses call your body a temple. We read this again later in this letter.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20:

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

What does this verse say we should do with our bodies? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the temple in which the Holy Spirit lives? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. We should glorify God with our bodies. Your body is a temple. My body is a temple. When we use our bodies to commit sin, we use God's house in a very bad way. God is not pleased with this. A Christian should be careful about what he does with his body. We should be careful what we do and think and say. We should be careful how we dress. We should be careful how we take our bodies.

Our bodies are like temples. Who lives in these temples? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. The Holy Spirit lives in our bodies. If we are not careful to use our bodies to glorify God, we destroy the temple.

1 Corinthians 3:17:

If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

What will God do to someone who destroys God's temple? \_\_\_\_\_

Your people need to know all that you have learned in this lesson. Prepare a sermon to preach to you people about this. Write your thoughts on another paper. Bring the paper to class.

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18. God will destroy anyone who destroys God's temple.

What will God use to judge the lives of the Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

Our bodies are like temples. Who lives in these temples? \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 2:**

**DAY 4: CHURCH LEADERS ARE STEWARDS OF THE TRUTHS OF GOD**

**1 Corinthians 4:1-13**

1. We have seen that each Christian is choosing how he will build his life. He builds it as a man builds a house. We learned that God will judge each Christian to see how he built his life.

What will God use to judge how Christians have built their lives? \_\_\_\_\_

Our bodies are like temples. Who lives in these temples? \_\_\_\_\_

2. God will judge our lives with fire. This will show whether we receive rewards in heaven. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Today we will learn that church leaders are like stewards. A steward is one who cares for something for another person. This is what we will learn.

- (1) Church leaders are stewards of the deep truths of God.
- (2) Stewards must be faithful.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 4:1 to 4. Who wrote that people should see church leaders as stewards of the truths of God?

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3. Paul wrote these words. He wanted people to know that church leaders are stewards. A steward has a big work. He is responsible. He is caring for something for another person.

1 Corinthians 4:1:

This is how one should regard (or look at) us, as servants of Jesus Christ and stewards of the mysteries (or deep truths) of God.

Church leaders are stewards. From this verse, what have they been given to take care of?

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4. Church leaders must take care of the deep truths of God. We read these truths of God in the Bible. These are the teachings of God which he wants people to know.

I work in an office. There is money in the office. I have given this money to a worker to take care of it for me. He must be careful as he takes care of this money. He must write down how the money is used. This worker is a steward. He is responsible for the money. I have given it to him to care for.

How do you think I would feel if this man were not faithful and stole the money?

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5. I would be very unhappy if he were not faithful. The deep truths of God are all the teachings of the Bible. These are under the care of church leaders. The leaders must preach from them. They must explain them to the people. They must show the people how to use them. They must keep the people from false teaching. They must not let anyone teach something in church which is against the Bible. They must care for the word of God well.

What do we call a man who has been given something to care for?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. We call him a steward. A steward takes care of something for another person. God has given church leaders something to take care of.

What has God given church leaders to take care of as stewards? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. He has given them the deep truths of God. We church leaders must think much about this. We must take good care of these truths. We must be careful to teach the word of God to our people. We must be careful to use the word of God to fight against false teaching.

1 Corinthians 4:2:

Moreover it is required (or expected) of stewards that they be found trustworthy (or faithful).

From this verse, what is expected of stewards? \_\_\_\_\_

8. God expects stewards to be faithful. God wants stewards to do their work well. God expects this of all church leaders. They must work hard. They must be truthful. God depends on them to teach people.

What has God given church leaders to care for as stewards? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. God has given his deep truths to stewards. He has given them the word of God. He has put the Bible into their hands and he expects them to be faithful. He depends on them to preach from it. He expects stewards to study the word of God and teach it to the church.

Who are the stewards whom God expects to be faithful? \_\_\_\_\_

10. These are the church leaders. They have been given the work of caring for God's deep truths. It is hard work because some people want to destroy the Bible. Some people speak evil of it and say it is not God's word. Church leaders must care for the word of God. This is what the Apostle Jude wrote.

Jude 3-4:

... I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend (or fight) for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For admission has been secretly gained by some who long ago were designated (or pointed out) for condemnation, ungodly persons who pervert (or turn) the grace of our God into licentiousness (or sin) and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

What does God expect of his stewards? \_\_\_\_\_

11. It is expected that stewards be faithful. Faithfulness is a big thing. It means that God can always depend on us. When God asks us to do something, we will do it. And we will do it well. A faithful worker is very careful. He does not want to make mistakes. He always does his best.

Jesus told about a master and ten stewards in Luke 19. In this chapter we read that the unfaithful steward was judged very hard by his master. But this is what the master said to the faithful steward.

Luke 19:17:

'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

Who will judge whether we have been faithful stewards? \_\_\_\_\_

12. God will judge us. He will test us by fire. It is God who has given us work to do. And it is God who will judge us to see if we have been faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:4:

I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted (or judged faithful). It is the Lord who judges me.

If we are faithful stewards, God will reward us. But we may sometimes meet hard things as stewards. Doing the work of God is not easy. It is hard work.

Open your Bible and read 1 Corinthians 4:8 to 13. Do you think Paul had an easy life?  
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13. Paul had a very difficult life. Sometimes he was in prison. He went on dangerous journeys. He sometimes had to go without food. He sometimes had no bed. All of these things happened when he was doing what God asked him to do. Remember that as stewards we will sometimes face hard things.

What has God given church leaders to care for as stewards? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is expected of stewards? \_\_\_\_\_  
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14. God has given us the deep truths of God to care for. He expects us to be faithful. He expects us to be faithful even when the work is not easy. Paul faced many hard things. This is what he said when he was ready to die.

2 Timothy 4:6-8:

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Paul faced many hard things. Perhaps we too will soon face these things. Stop now and ask God to help you do the work he has asked you to do.

15. What has God given church leaders to care for as stewards? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is expected of stewards? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**WEEK 2:**

**DAY 5: A SHEPHERD IS A SPIRITUAL FATHER**

1 Corinthians 4:14-21

1. Yesterday we learned that shepherds and church leaders are stewards.

What has God given church leaders to care for as stewards? \_\_\_\_\_

What is expected of stewards? \_\_\_\_\_

2. God has given church leaders the deep truths of God to care for. He expects us to be faithful. Paul was the apostle who started the church at Corinth. We read about this in the book of Acts.

Acts 18:1

After this he (Paul) left Athens and went to Corinth.

1 Corinthians 4:15:

I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Who was the spiritual father of the Christians at Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

In this verse, what did he call these Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

3. The church at Corinth was started by Paul. He was their spiritual father. He called the Christians there his children. It was through Paul that the people at Corinth heard the gospel and received spiritual life. We can say that a spiritual father is someone who leads others to Christ or starts a new church.

Are you a spiritual father? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are your spiritual children? \_\_\_\_\_

4. We will talk about this in class. From the verses for today, we will learn two things which spiritual fathers must do.

A spiritual father

(1) He must be a good example.



(2) He must correct his children.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 4:11 to 16. Think about your spiritual children. What kind of Christians would they be if they followed your example and lived just like you?

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5. You must give them a good example to follow. When Paul was at Corinth he was a good example to his children. He showed the people how to live for God. He showed them how to work for God.

1 Corinthians 4:16:

I urge you, then, be imitators (or followers) of me.

1 Corinthians 11:1:

Be imitators (or followers) of me, as I am of Christ.

Who must be a good example to his spiritual children? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. A spiritual father must do this. It is the work of the shepherd of the church. It is the work of all people who live for God. Your spiritual children will follow you. They will do what you do, no matter what you say. Be careful how you live. Live the life of Christ before them.

What must a spiritual father be to his spiritual children? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. A spiritual father must be a good example. This is what Paul wrote.

1 Corinthians 4:11-13:

To this present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad (or poorly dressed) and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate (or make peace).

What kind of example did Paul, a spiritual father, give to the Corinthians?

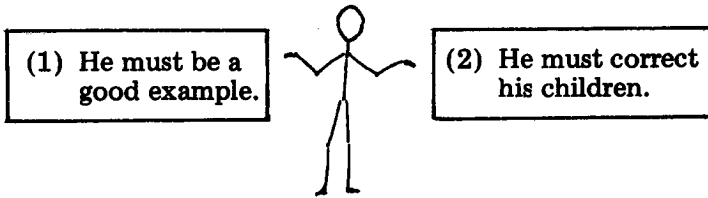
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8. He gave them a good example. George is the pastor of a church. But he is not careful about his own life. He does things which are wrong. He sometimes takes money from the church. He talks much about the weaknesses of the people in his church.

What is the first work of a spiritual father? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. A spiritual father



The first work of a spiritual father is to be a good example. He must give his children a good example to follow. But this is not the only thing a church leader must do. He must also correct his children when they do wrong.

1 Corinthians 4:14:

I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish (or correct) you as my beloved children.

What will the people of the church be like if the shepherd does not give them a good example and correct them?

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10. The people of the church will become bad, or they will go in the wrong way. If the spiritual father gives a bad example, the people also will do wrong things. If they are not corrected, they will go on in the wrong way.

I have two children. I have one boy and one girl. I tell them to do things. Sometimes they do what I tell them. But at other times they disobey me. I must correct them and teach them to obey me.

Who has the work of correcting the people of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. This is the work of spiritual fathers. The spiritual fathers are the church leaders and the shepherd. It is not easy to correct people. This work must be done with love. A leader must not try to hurt his spiritual children. He must not only point out their mistakes. When the people of the church do wrong, the spiritual father must show them the right way.

Paul knew that the Corinthians were doing some wrong things. He was coming to correct them. Until he could come, he wrote them this letter. He also sent Timothy to them.

1 Corinthians 4:17:

Therefore I sent to you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

When a shepherd sees people in the church doing wrong, what should he do?

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12. He must correct them. He must not let them go on doing wrong things. Some of the people in Corinth were proud. They did not want Paul to correct them.

1 Corinthians 4:18, 21:

Some are arrogant (or proud), as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you soon. . . . What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

Whom must the spiritual father correct? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. He must correct his spiritual children. He must tell them the right way to live for God. But he must do this with love. He must not always use strong words. His reason for correcting the children is to make them strong. He should not be proud or angry when he does this. He should care for his people as a loving father cares for his children at home.

2 Timothy 3:16-17:

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

What do these verses say we should use to correct people? \_\_\_\_\_

14. We should use scriptures or the Bible. The Bible is the guide which Christians must follow. When a shepherd shows people the right way to live, he must use the Bible.

Henry is the pastor of a church. He says it is his work to correct the people when they do wrong. Each Sunday he does this when he preaches. He calls the names of people in the church who have done wrong things. He tells what wrong thing they have done. He tries to correct his spiritual children in front of each other.

Do you think Henry understands the right way to correct people in the church?  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. I do not think this is the way God wants us to do this. Read what Jesus said.

Matthew 18:15:

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone.

From this verse, if someone in your church sins, what should you do first to correct him?  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. First, you should go to him alone. The pastor should go to that person and talk with him. A pastor should never say what his people have done wrong in front of others.

What is the second work of a spiritual father? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the first work? \_\_\_\_\_

17. He must first be a good example. Then he must correct his spiritual children. This is how Paul told Timothy to do this work.

1 Timothy 4:12:

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 5:1:

Do not rebuke an older man but exhort him as you would a father; treat younger men like brothers, older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, in all purity.

The work of a shepherd is not easy. Write some ways in which you can do this work better after today's lesson.

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18. We will talk about this in class.

Besides giving his children food, a spiritual father must do two things. What are they?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_