(55) Live, Give, Grow, **Go**  Wise Master Builders

**1 Cor. 3:10-13**

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like **a wise master builder**I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.**11**For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**12Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work.**

Using the Wrong Building Materials

* **Appeal**

**1 Cor. 2:1-5**

When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, **I didn’t use** **lofty words and impressive wisdom** to tell you God’s secret plan. **2**For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. **3**I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. **4**And **my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.** **5**I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

* + *“Get with a Gimmick, Must Keep with a Gimmick”*
* **Leader Personalities**

**1 Cor. 1:11-13; 3:4; 1:14-17**

**11**For some members of Chloe’s household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. **12Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of Paul.” Others are saying, “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,” or “I follow only Christ.”13**Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!

**4**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?**

* Man is not the Measure

**14I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius**, **15**for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. **16**(Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don’t remember baptizing anyone else.) **17**For Christ didn’t send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and **not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power…**

* Paul was Intentional About Undermining Any Worldly/Fleshly Paradigm in the Church
* The Terrible Danger of *“Emptying the Cross of It’s Power…”*
* **Identity Without Decision**

Jesus Called for Decision. He never allowed people to identify with the Him or the Kingdom Without Decision.

**Luke 9:57-62**

**57**As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” **58But Jesus replied,** “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.” **59**He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.” **60But Jesus told him,**“Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.” **61**Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.” **62But Jesus told him,** “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

* We Define Success Incorrectly in Modern Christianity
* In Our Rush to Appear Successful We Settle for Far Less Than Decision/Commitment
* (Also See **Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 14: 25-35**)

Co-Workers with God

**1 Cor. 3:5-9**

**5**After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? **We are only God’s servants** through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. **6I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow**. **7**It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow. **8The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. 9For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building.**

* Planting
* Watering
* “God Makes it Grow”

Kingdom Building That Lasts

**Matthew 7:24-27**

**24**“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to **a wise man who built his house on the rock.** **25**And **the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26**Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like **a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”**

* Building Materials
* Building Skills
* Building That Weathers Storms & Withstands the Tests of Time