

Sunday School Live Lesson

August 3, 2025

Christians as God's Temple

1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Sunday School Lesson

Questions for Us Today

August 3, 2025

2

How do you feel about God's temple, with the Holy Spirit, dwelling in you?

Sunday School Lesson

Objective

August 3, 2025

3

To understand the messaging of the Apostle Paul (in today's lesson) to the Corinthian church and to us.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

August 3, 2025

1. Bibliography

4

2. Points of Information: Paul, Corinth

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

August 3, 2025

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was originally known as Saul.

6

A young Saul stood by and approved of the stoning death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Acts 7:58—8:1a.

Points of Information – Paul

Following a career of persecuting Christians, Saul became known as Paul after his Damascus Road conversion. Acts 9:3-18.

Paul suffered greatly but did not complain in his ministry. He believed that being persecuted is inevitable for all who live for Christ. 2 Timothy 3:12.

Points of Information – Corinth

Corinth was a major city before and during the lifetime of the Apostle Paul.

The Apostle Paul founded a church in Corinth during his second missionary journey and stayed there eighteen months. Throughout his further travels, Paul continued to think and care about the church in Corinth.

Points of Information – Corinth

The moral depravity in Corinth, which became prevalent, infected the early church as well.

Acts 18:1-18 describes the Apostle Paul's ministry in Corinth.

Christians as God's Temple

Lesson Context

In the first Chapter of this letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul started off with very kind words of compliment. He then quickly addressed the problems of division which had arisen amidst this congregation.

Christians as God's Temple

Lesson Context

Preaching unity, the Apostle went on to discredit the factionalism which had grown in the church – with separate allegiances to different leaders, including Paul, Apollos and Peter.

Christians as God's Temple

Lesson Context

The Apostle wrote about wisdom – distinguishing the true wisdom of God from the foolishness of mankind.

Christians as God's Temple

Lesson Context

The Apostle Paul spoke humbly regarding his own ministry approach, using the Spirit-filled wisdom of God.

In the beginning of today's Chapter, he further dealt with the wrongful allegiances of the people to different preachers: himself (Paul), Apollos and others.

1 Corinthians 3:10 (NIV)

By the grace God has given Me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.

1 Corinthians 3:11

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

1 Corinthians 3:12

If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

1 Corinthians 3:13

their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

1 Corinthians 3:14

If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:15

If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved – even though only as one escaping through the flames.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

1 Corinthians 3:17

If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:18

Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise.

1 Corinthians 3:19

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness":

[Job 5:12-13]

1 Corinthians 3:20

and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”

[Job 5:12-13; Psalm 94:11]

1 Corinthians 3:21

So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours,

1 Corinthians 3:22

whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas
[Peter] or the world or life or death or
the present or the future – all are yours,

1 Corinthians 3:23

and you are of Christ, and Christ is of
God.

Remember These Things:

Your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit from the Lord.

Let us not forget that God's wisdom is infinitely superior to that of humankind.

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30

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NEXT Sunday School Live Lesson

August 10, 2025

Our Bodies Belong to God

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

34

Instructor: Michael McCants