

Envisioning Church

(1 Corinthians 3:1-17)

- Introduction:
1. “Church” means many things to many people.
 2. What does it mean to you?
 3. The reason some of us see it differently is because that’s the way God intended it.
 4. Let’s look at four ways God envisioned the church, and lessons we can learn from them.

I. The Church is a Family - The Goal is Maturity

- A. (1 Corinthians 3:1-4).
- B. Just as natural as a child growing physically, we should be growing spiritually.
- C. The marks of maturity are:
 1. What you eat (1 Corinthians 3:1-2).
 2. What you do (1 Corinthians 3:3).
 3. What you say (1 Corinthians 3:4).

II. The Church is a Field - The Goal is Fruitfulness

- A. (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).
- B. It matters not who plants or who waters, the goal is fruitfulness.
- C. Bearing Fruit is much broader than simply making disciples.

III. The Church is a Building - The Goal is Quality

- A. (1 Corinthians 3:9-15).
- B. We must have the right foundation (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).
- C. We must have the right materials (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

IV. The Church is a Temple - The Goal is Holiness

- A. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).
- B. God takes holiness seriously (1 Corinthians 3:17).

- Conclusion:
1. The above qualities challenge us.
 2. They are not possessed in any one person perfectly, but are possessed by all who seek to serve God, in some degree or another.
 3. May we all dedicate ourselves more fully to the process of spiritual growth.