

## ***Fruitfulness and Faithfulness***

- **Day One—Read 1 Corinthians 3:1–6; 12:12-13,15,18**

Why is unity in the church so difficult to maintain? Why does maturity play such a big part in maintaining it? If it really is “God who makes things grow,” and we do our best, how does that eliminate pride if we’re “successful,” and shame if we’re not? It really comes down to knowing and fulfilling our personal calling.

**Pray** and thank Jesus that he loves you for who you are and has gifted you for ministry. Thank him that He makes things grow and you have a part to play in his work in other people. Ask for wisdom and grace to accomplish his calling for you.

- **Day Two—Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-12; Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 7:22-23a.**

As we do our part in the work of ministry, and build on the foundation of Jesus Christ, what do you think is the difference between building with “gold and silver” as opposed to building with “hay or straw?” Can we do the *right thing* for the *wrong reason*?

**Pray** – Ask God to help you keep building on the right foundation with the right materials. Ask him to help you keep Christ at the center of all you do and to keep your motives in ministry pure.

- **Day Three—Read 1 Corinthians 3:21-4:2**

It’s alright to feel our local church is the best, but we must always affirm our unity with other churches! May we always and only “boast” about Jesus! There’s only one “Church,” and Jesus is Lord of it! May we be “servants of Christ,” and “stewards of the secret things!”

**Pray** – Ask Jesus for the grace to remain faithful to seek him as both a “servant” and a “steward.”

New Life Lessons  
March 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015  
Pastor Ron Salsbury

## ***“The Keys to Faithful & Fruitful Ministry”***

### ***More Great Buts #6***

1 Corinthians 3:1-7; 4:1-2; Luke 8:1-15; Ephesians 4:16

**1 Corinthians 3:6** (NIV) <sup>6</sup> I planted the seed,  
Apollos watered it,  
**BUT** God made it grow.

## ***The Keys to Faithful & Fruitful Ministry***

### ***1. Unity – Seeking Maturity in Diversity***

**1 Corinthians 3:1-6** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Brothers, I could not address you as **spiritual** but as **worldly**--mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup> You are still worldly. For **since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly?** Are you not acting like mere men? <sup>4</sup> For when one says, “**I follow Paul,**” and another, “**I follow Apollos,**” are you not mere men? <sup>5</sup> What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? **Only servants, through whom you came to believe**--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup> **I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, BUT God made it grow.**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 15, 18** (NIV) <sup>12</sup> **The body is a unit,** though it is made up of many parts; and **though all its parts are many, they form one body.** So it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the **one Spirit to drink.** <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>18</sup> But in fact **God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.** John 17:23; Ephesians 4:1-7; Romans 14:9

## 2. Humility – Affirming Where We Serve

**1 Corinthians 3:7-9** (NIV) <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup> **The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.** <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; **you are God's field, God's building.**

**1 Peter 2:4-5** (NIV) <sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--<sup>5</sup> **you also**, like living stones, are **being built** into a **spiritual house** to be a **holy priesthood**, offering **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 4:16** (NIV) <sup>16</sup> From (Christ) **the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.**

## 3. Purity – Keeping Christ at the Center

**1 Corinthians 3:10-20** (NIV) <sup>10</sup> By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. **But each one should be careful how he builds.** <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation **other than** the one already laid, **which is Jesus Christ.** Galatians 1:7b-8

<sup>12</sup> If any man **builds on this foundation** using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> **his 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 man's work. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:19-25; Matthew 25:13-46

**Matthew 7:22-23a** (NIV) <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on **that day**, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' <sup>23a</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, **'I never knew you.'** John 17:3

## 4. Faithfulness – Continuing to Seek

**1 Corinthians 3:21-4:2** (NIV) <sup>21</sup> So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, <sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all are yours, <sup>23</sup> and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

<sup>4:1</sup> So then, men ought to regard us as **servants of Christ** and as those **entrusted with the secret things of God.**

<sup>2</sup> Now it is required that **those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.**

### *Faithfully Seeking to be ...*

- **“Servants of Christ”**

*... not serving others “to be seen by others”*

*... not serving others to “feel better about ourselves”*

- **“Stewards of the Secret Things”**

**The rewards of the “secret place”**

Matthew 6:1-18 *Giving, Praying, Fasting*; John 17:3

**The “treasures of darkness” stored in “secret places”**

Isaiah 45:3; Job 42:5

**1 Corinthians 3:7-9** (NIV) <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup> **The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.** <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.