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exception

## Small Group Notes - 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

*Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.*

This week's passage is in three parts. You may not have time to focus on all three of them or you might want to zone in especially on one of them.

### **Introduction**

The church in Corinth was struggling in many ways. The focus of these opening chapters is on their lack of unity. See 1 Corinthians 1:10-12.

*Question: In what different ways are we tempted to be divided at St Kea?*

Paul is now coming to the conclusion of his argument and in these verses he speaks very clearly to the church.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-23**

#### **Part 1 - 3:16-17**

What made the Corinthian church a temple, was that the glory of God dwells in his people by the Holy Spirit. It is the one place where God can be met in Corinth, in the fellowship of His people.

*Question: How should the reality that we are the temple of God change how we think about the church?*

*Question: How should the reality that we are the temple of God change how we act within the church?*

*Question: How does God's view of those who would 'destroy God's temple' sober us?*

#### **Part 2 - 3:18-20**

In these verses Paul talks about the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of God. Have a look back at 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

*Question: What do these verses teach us about real wisdom?*

*Question: What aspects of the 'wisdom of the world' do we take on board which lead to divisions among us?*

*Question: How might grasping the wisdom of the cross more deeply help us in our relationships together?*

**Part 3 - 3:21-23**

Worldly wisdom is given over to boasting, about who we are or what we might have achieved. This is at the heart of the divisions in Corinth. The antidote is to recognise that all God's people have in Christ been given 'all things' 3:21. If all the greatest realities are ours, through Christ, why boast!

*Question: In what ways do we fail to see that we have 'all things' that we need in Christ?*

*Question: How would grasping all we have in Christ mean an end to our divisions within churches?*

**Conclusion**

There have been a number of challenging points in this session. Try to articulate the one or two things that you need to individually do/think/pray differently as a result of your reflections?

In there anything you might need to also start doing differently as a group as a result of your reflections?

**Spend time praying for each other in response to God's word this week.**