

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 3:1–9

DISCUSSION 1: SPIRITUAL STAGNANCY

1. What are some symptoms of being stagnant in your walk with Christ?
2. Can you describe a season of spiritual apathy or stagnancy? What did that look like? What did it look like to step out of it?
3. Would you describe your Christian life in this season as stagnant? Why or why not?
4. What are 1-2 things you can start doing different this week to fight back against spiritual stagnancy?

DISCUSSION 2: SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

1. What are some symptoms of spiritual immaturity? What are examples from 1 Corinthians of their immaturity?
2. Verses 1-2 emphasize part of spiritual immaturity is a disconnect between our beliefs and our experience of them, or how we live them out. How are you intentionally acting on and responding to the truths of God's Word you know rather than settling for only hearing them or even cognitively affirming them?
3. How are you experiencing and responding to the gospel in your life?

DISCUSSION 3: DIVISION

1. Why is consistent relational conflict an indication of spiritual immaturity?
2. What are some of the problems underneath the kind of division in chapter 3—diving about peripheral issues rather than clear biblical teaching?
3. What are subtle ways division, disunity, tribalism, and conflict can spread in a church? How can you be on guard against division, and instead, pursue the unity we have in Christ?
4. If you're tempted to distance yourself from other believers for unbiblical reasons, what are truths you need to speak into your heart?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- [“Are There Carnal Christians?”](#) by Nathan Bingham and R. C. Sproul at Ligonier.org
- [“Rethinking the ‘Carnal Christian’”](#) by John Piper at desiringgod.org
- [“6 Things to Remember or Do When Your Spiritual Life is Stagnant”](#) by Dustin Crowe at indycrowe.com

