

The importance of the Pastor-Teacher Context of 1 Corinthians 3:

The fundamental principle in Hermeneutics is **CONTEXT**.

Many false doctrines are because people ignore **CONTEXT** and just derive a doctrine or principle that is not what the passage is teaching.

- 4 **For** (Introduction verification of the indictment Paul has been speaking of)
when one says, "I am of Paul,"
and another, "I am of Apollos,"
are you not mere men?

Human Creatures

They have not advanced from being just human creatures.
"Heathens"

Each one of us is a human, but, also, we are each a **New Spiritual Creation** and it is that level that we should manifest in our lives here!

I AM OF PAUL,
I AM OF APOLLOS,
I AM BAPTIST,
I AM METHODIST,
I AM ROMAN CATHOLIC, ETC.

GET READY FOR A SHOCKER:

GUESS WHERE THEY GOT THIS?

FROM THEIR HEATHENISM!

WHICH TEMPLE DO YOU WORSHIP?

WHICH GOD OR GODDESS DO YOU WORSHIP:

ALL OF THIS IS A CARRY-OVER

FROM THEIR HEATHENISM.

All of this is an indication that they have not advanced into **Spiritual Maturity**—comes from our human nature—I am for this team or that **team**! That by which we identify ourselves.

In the spiritual realm:

‘**minister worship**’ or ‘minister identification’.

Which is most prominent in our society today?

or

Denomination Worship—Denomination Identification?

Ok, what should we be saying?

I am a Christian,
a follower of JESUS CHRIST, Him
Crucified and Resurrected!

I attend a Bible church
where the primary
emphasis
is the study of the Bible,
verse-by-verse, etc.

They have not grown at all;
making an issue out of the man instead of out of the
message!

It is the milk and solid food that is the issue.

Having said these things Paul now moves to a dissertation on
the **Pastor-Teacher**;

The Shepherd-Teacher.

Not to set up a following,
not to form a denomination or movement,
but of far more importance
is WHAT they speak, WHAT they teach!

And every believer should listen with a Biblical Ear!

And the following are some things you want to pay close
attention to in a **Pastor-Teacher**. And this will go be true
throughout chapter 4.

The problem in America is the pulpit!

The multitude of false gospels—deceiving doctrines,
emotional emphasis, instead of Biblical emphasis... and the
failure of Spiritual Freedom in this country and Politics.

Freedom in the pulpit
where most Pastors entertain, to make the people feel good,
while those same pastors are not trained
in the study and teaching of Word of God!

And just because they have an assembly of 40,000 people does not mean that God is blessing them! It means that 40,000 people do not want the sound teaching of the Word of God.

So now we move into a discussion on the Pastor-Teacher in chapters 3 and 4.

Basic definition of Pastor-Teacher from the Word of God

Verses 5-9.

5 Servants of the Lord and of people: unbelievers and believers.

9 God's fellow workers.

5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one.

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

4:1 servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

4 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Very few even know what a mystery of God is.

In 3:5-6 Paul takes them out of their heathenism into the Spiritual realm.

5 What then is Apollos? and what is Paul?

Servants through whom you believed even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

I hope that you will never be overly impressed by a man,

but primarily consider his teaching!

I once was in a group that made the man everything...

*if he does not teach it, it is not true,
and no matter what he teaches—it is true...*

dangerous and erroneous.

Neither Apollos nor Paul are the object of Faith.

Neither Apollos nor Paul are heads of any movement or denomination or desire to be Pope!

What then is Apollos? and what is Paul?

Neither is the object of your Faith.

They are not gods from your former **temples!**

Who or what are they... that you should praise them?

Servants

In a moment Paul is going to put all this together...

Look at verse 16 **who is the temple?**

You are the temple of God

16 ¹⁶Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

The Corinthian believers are part of a culture of many **temples** with servants and gods and goddesses to worship.

So, Paul draws from their culture, just as he has throughout his teaching... especially, with his teaching on WISDOM... but

here he draws from something related to their daily lives and should be part of their daily lives now that they are believers in JESUS CHRIST.

Temples

Multiple buildings — all over the Greek and Roman world and now they are to understand a new Temple. Verse 16.

Temple gods and goddesses

But now look at verses 9, 16-17

Temples has servants—

This is what the Pastor-Teacher is (Paul and Apollos).

Don't think of them as gods. They are servants.

4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men? (Former heathenism)

5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul?

Answer is coming up:

What are they?

Think!

Answer this question.

What is their office?

How are they to be thought of;

How are they to be **regarded** — note 4:1

Paul answers this question next in verse 5.

Servants

1st A servant is **appointed** – Pastor-Teachers are appointed by

God, not based on any merit of the man.

2nd Servants must be observant — Spiritual Love observes and

sees a need then meets that need.

“To teach what is needed”

through whom you believed, or by whom you believed
But not – in whom you have believed.

**Here is the goal, the objective of presenting the gospel;
or of teaching Bible Doctrine...
Biblical Truth!**

That people will believe in *JESUS CHRIST* and in the *Holy Spirit*.

Verses 4-20 Pastor-Teacher’s relationship with the church.

Verses 21-23 Churches relationship with the Pastor-Teacher.

**PRINCIPLE:
Believers are on the same team
regardless of the Local Church.**

**5 What then is Apollos?
And what is Paul?**

Servants through whom by means of whom...

Here is the grace of God, for all of us...(Pastor-Teacher or not)

we are all the instruments of God
in giving the gospel to others.

This is a wonderful thing to be said of each of us.

through whom you believed

Again, the Aorist emphasizes the fact that
Salvation is a ONE-TIME BELIEF in JESUS CHRIST
— not over and over. —

Note that he does not say **so that you learn**—as important as learning is, if it does not lead to Faith... you are not learning.

He does not say **so that you serve**—as important as serving is, if it is not a manifestation of Faith in the Holy Spirit—worthless...

through whom you believe

Specifically, this verb refers to response to the gospel;
Aorist Active Indicative **pisteuo** Aorist once and for all
believe.

But the PRINCIPLE applies to the ministry of the
Pastor-Teacher; “Teaching the Word of God in such a way as
soliciting a Life of Faith.”

even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

OK, we have a problem here; we have two choices here; and **either** is grammatically and theologically acceptable.

1st This may refer to those who believe—

2nd This may refer to the Pastor-Teacher or the communicators of Biblical Truth—

KJ The KJ definitely has the 1st one in view

by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? The *Lord gave faith to believe*

NIV The NIV has the 2nd one in view:

as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

The task of the Pastor-Teacher; to make this clear they have added the words *has assigned and his task*

NASV The NASV left it open:

as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

Supplying *gave opportunity* which fits either interpretation.

GREEK The Greek **even to each one as the Lord gave**

While both fit; which one did Paul have in mind?

1.

1st Clues the use of the adjective.

each one

This adjective, “**each one**” occurs 5 times in verse 5-13—referring to the communicator of Biblical Truth.

2.

2nd CONTEXT:

Paul is not going into a discussion of those who believe and those who do not believe...
but is going into a discussion of Pastor-Teacher — chapters 3 and 4

3.

Look at the Godhead involved verse 5— **the Lord gave** It is up to the Lord how many people a missionary or evangelist or a Pastor-Teacher will lead to the Lord or cause to mature.

Note: 6-7 **but God causes growth**

4.

even as the Lord gave to every man?

Every Pastor-Teacher must be fully aware of this concept. He must keep his eyes on the Lord and off other Pastors and other Local Churches.

No Pastor-Teacher or any servant of the Lord ever earns or deserves his Gift! And it is up to the Lord to give to each one as per the Plan of God.

His Gift and the Gift of every believer is on the basis of Grace!

6 I planted, Apollos watered, (supports the understanding) as the Lord gave opportunity – I planted, Apollos watered but God was causing the growth.

Putting this verse together, it is easy to see how the Pastor-Teachers — are Servants; And God's fellow workers...

I planted

Means that Paul founded the church in Corinth. Acts 18.

The Active Voice means that Paul planted the seed by going in and proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the Truth of Sound Doctrine.

Apollos watered

This is what most Pastor-Teachers do...

in today's world most Local Churches have already been planted; but it is his function to come in and water with the Water of the Word.

Apollos combined his natural gift of eloquence
with the Power of the Holy Spirit
and
the Understanding of the Old Testament Scripture.

Natural ability of eloquence does not make a person an effective teacher of the Word of God. In fact, in many cases these young men depend on their natural abilities and not on the study of the Word of God or on the Holy Spirit and they may get a lot of people to follow them but before God they are failures.

But Apollos studied the Old Testament and Scripture tells us he had a great deal of accurate Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST—
Messiah Acts 18:24-28

²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

²⁶ and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

²⁷ And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Apollos watered

Second part of a grace team... *plant and water*

1. You've got to plant a seed • Gospel
2. Then you have to keep it watered – how often?

Think about the heat today—you water it daily—this is what a Pastor-Teacher must do, day in and day out

—take the Water of the Word and water the Local Church—
and then add the Water of the Holy Spirit
—dynamics of Local Church—

But God causes the growth

You can plant, and water...but it is God who causes the spiritual growth of those in in the Local Church.

But God

This little two-word phrase
introduces the solution in the Angelic Conflict.

Here is the solution to SAD (Stress, Anxiety, or Depression) in your life
—if you know Him and believe Him—

This phrase should always orient the believer,
especially, the Pastor-Teacher.

All through our lives circumstances bring us to the **point.**—

But God

Thomas Howlett – death threatening disease – **But God**

How many times in your life, throughout your life can you
now look back and say... **But God...**

Alla

This introduces a statement that is contrast to the logical
conclusion...

Since Paul planted, and since Apollos watered...
Then it follows they caused the growth.

But **alla**—

but gives a resounding **No!**

It is not Paul, nor is it Apollos who causes the growth of the individual believers... **it is God!**

But God

Only in original manuscripts we have the Definite Article.

But The God

And the presence of the definite article specifies or identifies the member of the Godhead who causes growth and this is the Holy Spirit.

One of the multitude ministries of the Holy Spirit is to cause growth. Watering is the teaching of the Word of God, Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST, etc.

The Gospel of John 14:26; 16:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you

¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

¹⁴ But¹a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and

he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

A farmer can plough, plant and pray, but if God does not cause the growth all his labor is for nothing.

1. The Pastor-Teacher studies and teaches.
2. The believer puts his Trust in the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit teaches and causes the growth.

But God causes the growth

I love **this word**. Here is the objective of the Pastor-Teacher; the Local Church and of the believer.

To allow God to cause you to grow spiritually.

This **point right** here is where so many Christians get it all wrong.

I do for God, **I** obey God, **I** study the Word of God; **I** give... **I**, **I**, **I**,

**Believers, you may do all these things...
but it is God who causes the growth it is God who causes all
we do to be Divine Good.**

This is one of the Grace Blessings God gives us all,
to be part of His glory,
but it is God who brings glory.

The believer is God's field, you are God's building. verse 9

This is why this entire design of the Local Church sets up the
Grace Team...

Made up of different spiritual Gifts, different joints, different (f).

A grace team, where everyone needs everyone!

And this is why

the New Commandment is Spiritual Love toward One Another!

We are to serve One Another in Spiritual Love. (Galatians 5:13)

¹ It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

But the God causes the growth

The structure here is dramatic to what is being said:

Paul planted, Apollos watered

Both of these are Aorist Tense but now Paul changes to the *Imperfect* and this is so important.

The Aorist followed by the Aorist Tense leading to the imperfect.

I planted (Aorist)

Apollos watered (Aorist)

But it is neither Paul nor Apollos that causes growth:

**It is God who causes growth!
And growth is the Objective!**

Right here in the Greek tense we clear up and close once and for all this whole matter of pastor-worship; (pitting one

Pastor against another) and we are going to do it with the imperfect tense.

Neither Paul nor Apollos, no pastor through history right... up to today, causes growth.

It is God who causes growth!

Both planting and watering are in the Aorist.

Neither is more important than the other.

Throughout the history of the Church...

it is not the man and what he is doing,

it is God, and what He is doing.

The only issue between the Pastor-Teacher is – are they ministering in the Truth!

Is their gospel the True Gospel;

Are they teaching the Truth!

God is the issue!

The imperfect –portrays continuous action in past time; it draws attention to the process not merely that it is done...

Aorist

Fact: one plants;

Fact: another waters – done

But it is God the Holy Spirit who causes the process of the Spiritual Growth.

but our objective is spiritual growth and it is God who causes the growth, therefore, we should desire to walk in the Holy Spirit, live in the Holy Spirit.

Plant and Water – aorist punctiliar – done over and over and both being in the Aorist shows they have the same weight while the imperfect speaks of the action, not as punctiliar... but continuing the growth to maturity.

The planting and the watering – occur and it is done, but things are really going on inside the believer, growth, spiritual maturity.

But once their job is completed – God now goes to work

This is what God the Holy Spirit is doing inside of you when you partake of the teaching of the Word of God.

And the imperfect of **the God causes the growth** not the planting or the watering—**this tells us WHO we should be occupied with, not with man, but with THE GOD who causes us to grow.**

Answering the questions of verse 5 and that we are on the right track about the unimportance of the one who plants or waters but that it is the one who causes growth that is the only important one... look at verse 7.

7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

Is everything

So then the Greek construction introduces a very strong result (undeniable fact)—The Pastor-Teacher **is nothing but God is everything...** so why are you making such a big deal out of the Pastors.

It is God and God alone who is the only issue!

Coming off verse 6 **but the God causes the growth**

**So then neither
the one who plants
nor
the one who waters is anything**

Both planting and watering are **iterative present tense** referring to what recurs throughout the Church Age.

Any thing (not) **anyone but anything of significance in this process?**

Now you have to be careful here: this is an *indefinite* pronoun but that is misleading, for it is not indefinite at all, but used to express categories – **this is not talking about the personal identity of the** Pastor-Teacher, **the one who plants or the one who waters, but on the function itself.**

Therefore, not anything (as opposed to) **not anyone**

What the one who plants does and what the one who waters does, is not anything when compared to what God does—causing the growth.

Some people will want to make a big issue out of the founder of the Local Church; others will want to make a big deal out of the one who teaches –especially, if over a period of time;

Here is where we get into **ecclesiology**:
for example, formation of denominations—never sponsored nor condoned by the Bible.

But once you accept entering a denomination, you have to abide by their rules...

for example, there are some denominations that select who will be the pastor of a Local Church and how long he will stay...

no matter what the congregation thinks or says.

Other denominations allow the members of the Local Church to decide on a Pastor-Teacher and how long.

In some churches the board of deacons or elders run the church, —again, with no authorization from the Word of God.

They set the policies and tell the Pastor what he can and cannot teach...

I wouldn't give you a dime for a Local Church run by deacons or elders. I have seen some really horrible things happen in a Local Church run by a board.

Now we have a repeat of the important conjunction of contrast:

But Just as we saw in verse 6.

But God And why God the Holy Spirit? **who causes the growth**

**Causing you to grow is the work of God the Holy Spirit—
God's plan for your life is centered around your spiritual
growth...**

**reaching maturity – so that you can and will glorify JESUS
CHRIST and God can bless you in your spiritual life.**

Verse 6 God causes the growth.

Verse 7 The Pastor-Teacher plants and waters is nothing
compared to God in (f)

Verse 8 But don't draw the wrong conclusion or have these
verses say **and** teach what they do not say about the
Pastor-Teacher.

The Pastor-Teacher is extremely important and his
importance is based on what he does with the Gospel and
with the Holy Scriptures.

In God's view Pastor-Teachers are one in (f) but they are not equal, and the difference is not that one plants and one waters, the difference is not in the number of converts or the size of congregations.

The difference is in the Gospel and the Doctrine they build upon.

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

And this takes us to our study on the JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

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