

# How to Destroy a Church

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 3:16-23.
- B. The love of human wisdom is at the root of many divisions.

## II. A true view of the church.

- A. The church is as a true building built upon the Apostolic teaching about Christ.
- B. There is a sense that we are a building and must be built with the right materials.
  - 1. We are a temple whom God's Spirit resides in.
  - 2. Whoever defiles the Temple of God, He will destroy.
  - 3. Ananias and Saphira were destroyed because of their pretending.
- C. Corruption in the church happens when someone introduces the wisdom of the world into the practice of the world.

- 1. This occurs with matters of racism.
- 2. Counseling theories have often corrupted the church as well.
- 3. The church of Colossae became threatened by formalism, emotionalism, and asceticism.

## D. God destroys the one corrupting the church.

- 1. He suffers loss.
- 2. The things of the world measure up to nothing in the eyes of God.

## E. God's demand upon us if we live.

- 1. We cannot fool God—our human reward is wasted effort if we do not depend on God.
- 2. We must deliberately choose what the world thinks is foolish.
  - a. Moses renounced the world and all its allurements that he might suffer loss with the people of God for a season and he had great gain for it. (Hebrews 11)
  - b. The words of the wise are a puff in the air—instantly changing to something else. (Psalm 94)

c. Those that choose God never lose. If you save your life, you will lose it. If you lose your life, you will find it.

**Application questions:**

1. Why is the love of human wisdom so destructive in the church?

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2. How is the love of human wisdom manifest in the church today? Explain.

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3. Why is losing our life so contrary to human wisdom? Why is it essential to the life of the church?

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