

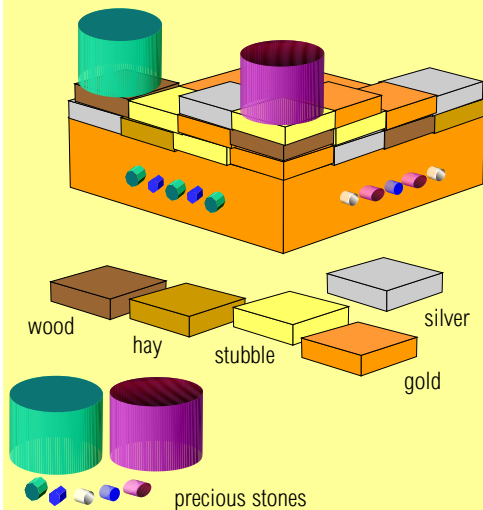
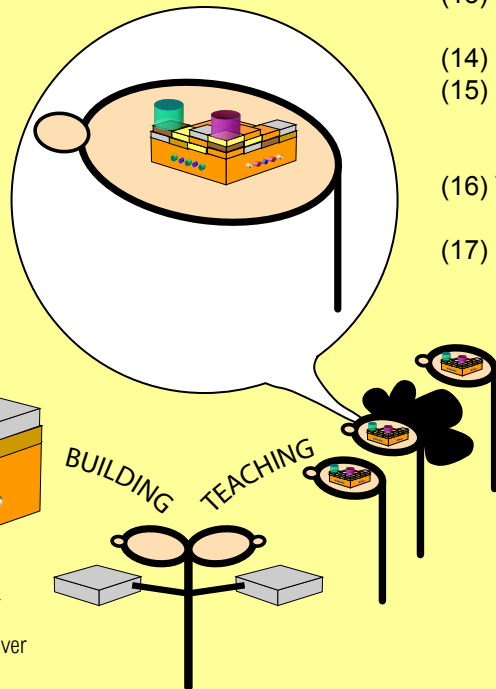
# METAPHOR OF THE BUILDING IN 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9C-15

## INSTRUCTION FROM THE METAPHOR OF THE BUILDING

- (1) The building represents the saints in the Church at Corinth ("you are [present active plural of *eimi*]...God's building" 3:9).
- (2) The building (saints in the Church at Corinth) belongs to God (3:9).
- (3) The building (saints) consists of building materials (doctrine taught and heard).
- (4) The building materials (teaching) have a wide range of value (false doctrine, legalism, human viewpoint, milk and meat of the Word).
- (5) The building materials (teaching) go into the building (souls of the saints in the Church at Corinth).
- (6) The foundation (Jesus Christ = christology and soteriology) is in the hearts of the believers in the Church of Corinth.
- (7) The superstructure (the teaching of Apollos and others) is also in the hearts of the believers in Corinth and varies in value from stubble to gold.
- (8) The building materials (what is taught and heard) are all in the souls of the saints in the Church at Corinth.
- (9) The building (saints) is under construction (teaching is continuing in the Church at Corinth).
- (10) The quality of the building (saints) may vary from poor to great, depending on the quality of what is taught.
- (11) Salvation (foundation of gold) is the most valuable thing you can teach, hear, and possess.
- (12) The building (saints) ceases to grow when teaching (work, building) ceases.



- (13) Every local church (the building) will be a different mix of building materials (teaching) depending on what is taught.
- (14) Some milk may be very valuable (gold); e.g., confession of sin, filling of the Spirit.
- (15) In relating verses 9c-15 back to verses 1-5, we see that this building (saints) is not going up (growing) very fast because the people are carnal, babes in Christ, and quarreling over who they'll listen to and not listen to.
- (16) The quality of the building materials (teaching) used depends on the intake capacity of the congregation (cf. Heb. 5:11-14).
- (17) By implication, the building in the souls of the saints will also be tested with fire, and they will be rewarded for the gold, silver, and precious stones they listened to (cf. Luke 10:42).



ITEMS IN THE METAPHOR IDENTIFIED	
masterbuilder	Apostle Paul
builders	Apollos, other apostles, pastors, and teachers
owner	God
foundation	christology and soteriology taught by Paul
superstructure	all teaching other than Paul's
the building	saints in the Church at Corinth
building/work	teaching God's Word
building materials	different kinds of teaching <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
value of materials	some teaching is more valuable than others
fire	quality of the teaching is tested
judge	Jesus at the Judgment Seat of Christ
rewards	treasure (gold, silver, and precious stones) in heaven