

## Week 5 Discussion Questions

**Text:** 1 Cor 3:1-9

**Icebreaker:** Who's the most mature person you know? What makes them mature to you?

1. For serious bonus points, read from the start of 1 Corinthians through chapter 3, verse 9, and observe the following:

- What words and ideas are repeated?
- How would you summarize this section of 1 Corinthians? How does it fit together?
- What else stands out to you from the passage or the sermon you heard Sunday?

2. Paul uses analogies in verses 1-3 where *spiritual = mature* and *flesh = infants = human*. How do these comparisons help express the problem Paul has been confronting in chapters 1-2?

*Application:* What happens when a church (that is, the people who comprise it) fails to “grow up”? Why is it a problem?

3. *Application:* In verse 3, Paul calls out “jealousy and strife” as expressions of the immaturity in the Corinthian church. What leads to jealousy and strife in churches today?

How can we guard against these things?

4. In response to the jealousy, strife, division, and immaturity, how would you summarize the argument of verses 5-9? What is Paul trying to get across to the Corinthians?

*Application:* Do you think the church today is a place where too much is made of human leaders? Explain.

5. Division and immaturity go hand-in-hand with a faulty perspective about Who in the church is truly “somebody” (see v. 7). Take time to pray as a group that our church would have a clear view about:

- the role of the church as “God’s field, God’s building”
- the role of human leaders as “servants” or “workers” who “plant” and “water”
- God as the one deserving of all glory and credit for the growth