

62. Principle: Human viewpoint never preempts divine viewpoint. Loyalty to biblical truth always defeats the philosophical lie.
63. The only way to fulfill these two principles is to subscribe to biblical principles, ignore opposition from the benighted, and get into the system that will produce rewards.
64. It is this concept that moves us into the task of constructing a building inside our souls. It will be constructed on materials from the sources of divine good and human good.
65. The word “building” in verse 9 translates the Greek noun **οἰκοδομή (oikodomé)**: “building as a process.” So the intent of the architectural example is to illustrate the process that, when executed, will produce divine good which results in rewards.

**1 Corinthians 3:9** - For we are God's fellow workers [ each believer has his function in the plan of God ], you are God's field [ functionaries in the divine plan ], God's building [ constructing an edifice of divine thought within a divine process ]. (EXT)

**1 Corinthians 3:10** - According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. (NASB)

1. This verse begins with the preposition **κατά (katá)** which refers to a standard of comparison. The standard is the system and process by which Paul functions in his assignment before God.
2. That standard is said to be “the grace of God which was given to me.” Grace is the divine policy of the integrity of God that supports the system that is being discussed.
3. “Grace” is the noun **χάρις (cháris)** and in this context it derives this meaning:

**VISUAL:**  
Composites equal  
the Integrity of God

Grace remains constant in, and basic to, a believer's fight without against the devil and his struggle within against sin. Renewal [rebound] is stimulated and impelled by God's illuminating [inculcation of divine truth into the soul] and strengthening [spiritual growth] of the soul.<sup>1</sup>

Visual:  
System of Divine  
Didactics

4. The system that enables any believer to serve God has been described in our recent study, each principle made available to us by the grace of God.
5. The first act of grace toward Paul was the gospel to which he responded. Secondly was the imputation of spiritual gifts: apostle, pastor-teacher which enabled him to utilize the system of Bibliology: revelation, inspiration, interpretation, communication & illumination, and animation.
6. Calling on the grace provisions associated with the doctrine of Bibliology, he acquired a high inventory of doctrinal ideas and communicated them verbally during four missionary journeys and in writings contained in 13 New Testament books.
7. This knowledge enabled Paul to classify himself as a "wise master builder," the noun **ἀρχιτέκτων** (**architēktōn**). It is the word from which we get the term "architect."
8. Its use in this context would be "general contractor." This is how the situation evolved in Corinth. Paul laid the "foundation," which is the communication of the gospel to which a few responded. Next came the "founding" of the local church in Corinth.
9. This process goes hand-in-hand with the system we have been studying:
  1. Continued evangelism while:
  2. Teaching the basics to the new congregation.
  3. Indoctrination into the essential doctrines of systematic theology.

<sup>1</sup> Zodiates, 1469.

## Is Jesus the Messiah?

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4. Identification of spiritual gifts (currently post-canon gifts).
5. Submission to the authority structure of the church: **(a)** divine and **(b)** human: **(1)** pastor-teacher and **(2)** board of deacons.
6. Recognition of the spiritual gift and its functions among the members of the church body.
7. The authority of the pastor, the delegated authority to deacons, and assigned authority to committee members must not be violated.
8. Individual rebellion and group participation in conspiracies disrupt the esprit de corps of the congregation and signal advanced reversionism in the souls of participants.
10. This process goes hand-in-hand with the system we have been studying.
11. In the case of the Corinthians, Paul left the congregation in the charge of Apollos whose task was to get the people up to speed on doctrine.
12. At some point Apollos decided to abandon the church, quite possibly because of individual challenges to his authority by a few or an organized conspiracy including many.
13. With the divinely commissioned authority absent, the congregation devolved into a disorganized set of factions involving members at odds with one another and each engaged in rampant carnality.
14. Principle: The spiritual status of a church does not depend upon the pastor, but upon the personal relationship each member of the congregation has to the Holy Spirit and his positive response to doctrine taught.

15. Paul takes the congregation back to the original foundation of the church. He indicates that he followed the procedure outlined above.
16. Paul asserted that he was “like a wise general contractor, I laid a foundation (Paul), and another (Apollos) is building on it.”
17. Paul and Apollos were following the construction plan outlined by Paul in establishing a local church. Subsequent rebellion and conspiracies are therefore assigned to the membership. Paul is making the effort to check the antiauthority arrogance with his First Epistle to the Corinthians.
18. Having built his case he now begins his warnings and illustrations. First the warning:

**1 Corinthians 3:10b** - But each man must be careful how he builds it.