

God's Blueprint of Transformation

1 Corinthians. 1:1-9 | Church Under Construction
September 7, 2025 | Pastor Michael Foster

God is in the construction business. He is at work to build His people to become the church He has designed. Of all the projects in His portfolio, the church at Corinth might be the most impressive model of God's master craftsmanship. As we study the blueprint for Corinth, we see that God's specialty is transformation, his favorite tool is grace, and he is faithful to finish all of his projects. And our gracious, faithful God is eager to begin his next project of transformation in our lives today!

- **God specializes in transformation**
- **Grace is the tool of his trade**
- **He is faithful to finish his projects**

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

Memorize 1 Corinthians 6:11

Read all of 1 Corinthians this week to get a big picture of the book!

Read and watch this introduction to 1 Corinthians – bit.ly/1Corinthians_

Read this overview of 1 Corinthians – bit.ly/FirstCorinthians_

Read about how God finishes what he starts and why we can be secure in our salvation – bit.ly/GodStartsHeFinishes

Read "God's Plan for our Growth" – bit.ly/PlanforGrowth_

Read these two stories of transformation – bit.ly/SpiritualTransformation_

And bit.ly/FoundFreedom

Listen to "Build Your Kingdom Here" – bit.ly/BuildYourKingdom_

Listen to "Broken Vessels" – bit.ly/BrokenVessels_

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1 and Philippians 3:4-11. What do you observe about Paul's transformation from a religious devotee to one who knows Jesus personally?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 6:9-11. What do you observe about the transformation of the Corinthians from those who were called immoral and idolaters to those who were called holy?
4. Share about one way God has transformed your life through Christ.
5. What is one area of your life in which you long to see greater transformation? Perhaps you have been trying to change it on your own? What might it look like to receive God's grace in this area of your life?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-7. How does "grace" (God's tool of trade) differ from other tools used in the world to bring about change, such as fear and control, rules and guilt, condemnation and shame, or flattery and manipulation? Is your view of God consistent with this description of his grace or tainted by experiences with other change methods?
7. What tools are you using to influence others? How is that working for you and them? What would it look like for you to use more grace in your interactions with others?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 and Philippians 1:6. What are some specific ways you are encouraged by the truth that God is faithful to finish his projects?
9. What should we do when we are discouraged about our own slow progress or that of others? What about when we have been hurt or disappointed with a church in some way?
10. Thinking about our church, what are some of the areas where we as a community are "under construction"? How can we demonstrate patience and faith as we trust God to finish His work in us?

