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**Sermon Title:***“Playing with Fire”*

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Pastor Stephen Schultze / Sunday, October 25, 2020

**Introduction:** *(v. 10)*

* How we build our life and the church demands careful attention as there are eternal implications. (Acts 20:26-27)

**Paul addresses three types of builders:**

1. **CAREFUL BUILDERS build with an eternal perspective.***(v. 11-14)*

* The nature of the construction must match the eternal foundation.
* Everyone will stand individually before God. *(2 Corinthians 5:10)*
* Testing by fire determines reward for the believer, not destiny. (*1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)*

1. **CARELESS BUILDERS rely on the temporal instead of the eternal.***(v. 15)*

* Careless builders settle for short-cuts which lead to work that will not endure.

1. **DESTRUCTIVE BUILDERS defile the church with heretical human wisdom.***(v. 16-17)*

*Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:22; 2 Corinthians 11:2-4*

* When the believers bend their knees to the unbiblical philosophies of the world, rather than bowing to the authority of Scripture, the church is defiled.
* While the careless builder will be saved, the destroyer will be destroyed.

**Conclusion:** *(v. 18-23)*

* The reward is great for those the world labels “fools.” (Matthew 5:11-12)

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**Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…**

* What is the difference between the testing the believer will face and the judgment the unbeliever will face in the day of the Lord?
* What are some ways that we can easily become careless builders?
* What is significant about the church being the “temple of God”?
* How can the church be most dangerously defiled and destroyed? How can we guard against such destruction?
* How do you feel about being labelled a “fool” by the world? Why are great rewards promised for those who are persecuted and called evil names for Christ’s sake?