

## Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 3

Tuesday, April 27



Photo Credit: Tim Kreps

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

Just when we think we’ve got a hang of this journey of faith, we get tripped up. In his writing to the Corinthians, Paul seems to be a little frustrated. He has led this community to faith and left them to move on to lead another community. Seemingly, everything was in order in Corinth. But then he hears of them bickering about who has led, taught and encouraged them in the faith. Some say it’s the notable leader, Apollos, others say it’s the infamous Paul. But Paul doesn’t want credit for their faith journey, he wants them to keep maturing in the faith and pass on the grace of God to others.

As humans we often get focused on the wrong things. We must be thankful for those who have mentored us in the faith. But they are not the only ones who can teach us and encourage us. We learn from many. We must also be part of that continuum of helping those who are just getting started in the faith.

In the photo, the bee and the butterfly both get nectar from the flower and take it to their communities to be transformed into many wonderful things. Neither of them is more important than the other. They both serve their purpose in the world God created. And our gratitude should be extended to both. The

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same should be in our life of faith. Our thanksgiving needs to be broad and wide to all of those who have gone before us.