



God Makes It Grow!
Message Notes, March 11, 2018
1 Corinthians 3:1-9

We are taking a break from considering our circles of harvest influence, but the words proclaimed today are very much connected to God's harvest call. The Holy Spirit, through Keith, reminded us who we are as the people of God under the lordship of Jesus. He is our head. We are not an organization centered around a person or even a set of doctrines or tenets; we are a community of people learning to love and serve one another and reaching out to our broken world with the love and truth of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 3:1-9. Paul is writing to his beloved congregation in Corinth – a church he planted and pastored for more than two years. He loves them, but he is concerned (perhaps even frustrated) that they are forgetting who they are as followers of Jesus. Divisions were arising as different groups were aligning with different leaders – Apollos, Peter, Paul.

“... You [Corinthians] are still worldly – since there is jealousy and quarreling among you ... you are acting like mere men. For when one says, ‘I follow Paul,’ and another says, ‘I follow Apollos,’ are you not mere men? What after all is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow ... for we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.”

God has been using Keith these past 20 years to “plant” – to sow a healthy culture of authentic, Christ-centered community. God has brought many leaders (staff and lay) who have come alongside Keith in this sowing, watering and developing work, but God has made it grow. Our fruitfulness as a church is the work of God in us – through Keith, all our leaders, and all our faithful members who have engaged in our life together.

Now God will continue this sowing, watering, growing work in our church, using our new lead pastor: Derrick Shields.

- We rejoice in God's leading!
- We trust the thoughtful, thorough, surrendered process of our Board as they have sought the Lord's will in this, resulting in 100 percent consensus that God is calling Derrick to lead our church forward.
- We give thanks for Derrick and how God has prepared him and called him to this role for such a time as now.
- We commit to moving forward with the Lord into all He desires to do in and through us in the years ahead.
- We commit to supporting and praying for Derrick (and all our staff).
- We also rejoice in the new ministry God is giving Keith and Pam (and that we will continue to have a relationship with them as our conference superintendent). We commit to praying for them as well.

The harvest is plentiful. Let's continue to move into it with devotion, joy and anticipation! “Father, thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth [in and through us] as it is in heaven.”