

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2010-11
1 Corinthians #3: The Division of Corinth, Wisdom & Pride

TGQ = Tim Gray Study Set Questions
TGR = Tim Gray Study Set Responses
NJBC = New Jerome Biblical Commentary
CSB = Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
HO = Special Handout
SK = Sze Go Chinese Bible

A	<p><u>Introduction of Related Passages</u></p> <p>“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”</p>	<p>1Cor 3:5 – 4:21 1Sam 3:9</p>
B	<p><u>The Church is God’s Fields and Buildings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In OT, the Israelites are referred as God’s vineyard many times. • Jesus shows us that this vine imagery in the OT is fulfilled in today’s Church. • Paul uses similar imagery to describe work of himself and Apollo. All the work that goes into planting and watering will be futile if not for God’s will. • Solomon in the OT, filled with wisdom, builds a Temple for God. Since this Temple prefigures the Church, Paul describes himself as a “shrewd architect” who, like Solomon, builds the Church for God. The Church he builds is not made of stones, but built on the “living stone” and is “spiritual” – the Church – allowing “a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” • “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?” “temple” = “naos” (GK) = Holy of Holies. Upon the completion of the Temple, the glory of the Lord filled the Ark of the Covenant. Paul called the Church “Temple” to indicate its holiness; it is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. According to Paul, this “Temple” has multiple implications: individual Christians (1Cor 6:19); local churches (1Cor 3:17); the universal Church (Eph 2:19-22). 	<p>1Cor 3:5-23</p> <p>Is 5:1-2,7, Joel 10:1, 13, TGR 3-1 Jn 15:1-5, CCC 755 Ps 127:1, Jn 6:44, 2Cor 4:7</p> <p>2Kings 2:1, 11, TGR 3-2, CSB</p> <p>1Pet 2:4-5</p> <p>1Cor 3:16, TGR3-3, CSB</p>
C	<p><u>Purgatory</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.” If all will be saved in Heaven after death, why does Paul write, “only as through fire”? In OT, fire is often used for purification. This passage describes Purgatory. • The teaching about Purgatory can be found in many passages in Scripture. 	<p>1Cor 3:10-15 1Cor 3:15 CSB Thess 2:5, Is 6:6-7, Zechariah 13:9</p> <p>1Cor 3:16-17 1Pet 3:19 Mt 12:31 2Gal 12:46</p>
D	<p><u>Paul as the Role Model for Catechists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We preach the truth and mystery as disciples, “servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries”. These mysteries have been revealed in the Gospel but not fully understood. These are also the heritage of the Church. • “I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted.” => one should never be too proud and take salvation for granted. • “And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?” God preaches grace instead of the glory of the catechists; so that others may receive life of the 	<p>1Cor 4:1-21</p> <p>1Cor 4:1, SN1, CSB</p> <p>1Cor 4:3-4, Heb 6:4-6, Rm 8:24 1Cor 4:7 1Cor 4:9-13, TGR 3-9</p>

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	<p>Gospel; not for a selected few but for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catechists have become “a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals” => they evangelize so that more may be saved. They carry the cross to follow Christ. • Jesus teaches, “call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven” (Mt 23:9), but Paul called the believers in Corinth “children” and himself, “father”. Does this go against Jesus’ teachings? • “You may learn through us the meaning of the saying, ‘Nothing beyond what is written’ – Paul explains that people should not be “puffed up” with pride and rely only on human wisdom. Teaching similar to this are mentioned in numerous places in the Bible. People should not “go beyond what is written” in the sense that these teachings should be strictly adhered to. He is not talking about “Sola Scriptura”. 	<p>1Cor 4:14-15, TGR 3-10</p> <p>TGR 3-8, CSB</p>
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SPECIAL HANDOUT
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1. This is Christ's only Church, "the one holy catholic and apostolic Church" proclaimed in the Nicene Creed; the Church left to Paul after Christ's resurrection (Jn 12:17); the same Church passed on to Paul and the other Apostles through which the Good News is proclaimed. (ref. Mt 28:18). Christ regards the Church as "the pillar and bulwark of the truth" (1Tim 3:15). This form of communal organization is fulfilled within the Catholic Church today. This is the Church looked after by Paul and all his successors, in communion with all the bishops.