



## Engage Page - 1 Corinthians: Practical Ways to Shape Your Destiny Starting Today

Dolly Parton has been credited with saying, “Don’t get so busy at making a living that you forget to build a life.” How true is that? It seems like life with all of its demands, distractions, financial, relational, social and career struggles can easily feel like nothing more than an endless series of problems to be solved. And then we die. Ever felt that way? Yet if there is one quality of a follower of Christ, it is that we are wired to be see opportunity when others see only obstacles. Those opportunities can be seen not just in good things, but through painful challenges and even in the dailiness of life as moments are presented where God’s goodness can come through you. Rather than focus on obstacles, God’s eternal rewards are meant to open our eyes to the endless opportunities for God to respond and reward you in ways that last forever. The question is, “Where do I start?”

### **For reflection and discussion:**

Read aloud 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:11-15 (p.1306 *Christian Basics Bible*). Those actions that bring an eternal reward are those things in life which are an overflow of our love for the Lord and desire to make Him known. This becomes a key motivation for Christ-followers and embracing the opportunity God offers means that we choose to become intentional about what we do with our time, talent and treasure.

Here are three areas where you can build a life, not just here on earth, but especially one that you can enjoy forever.

## **1. Express God's love through generosity.**

Generosity is one of the simplest ways to show Jesus' love in a practical way. Read the following verses aloud and answer this question: What is it about these actions that God rewards them and *why*?

- Luke 6:35 (p.1163)
- Matthew 6:3-4 (p.1076)
- Luke 14:12-14 (p.1179)
- Luke 16:9 (p.1181)

How can you intentionally expand your generosity and giving? What does God promise when we walk in generosity?

## **2. Care for God's family.**

Read aloud Hebrews 6:10 (p.1400) and Ephesians 6:8-10 (p.1352). What is promised for those who care for the well-being of other believers? When we are tired and worn out, what can be that extra motivation to keep doing good?

### **3. Live your faith openly.**

Read Colossians 3:23-24 (p.1366) aloud. Using your vocation or retirement years for ministry makes sense since that is where we spend much of our time in life. In fact, marketplace and neighborhood ministry is one of the greatest opportunities for the Lord to do great things through you. To do this requires prayer, wisdom, and spiritual awareness to recognize the opportunity.

What can you do to expand your ministry impact at work or in your neighborhood?

#### **Memory Verse:**

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. **Ephesians 5:15-16**