

(1st Corinthians 1:10-18)
“Am I Following God or Man?”

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK WE LEARNED...

- (1 Corinthians) is a book that **applies Christianity**.
 - So we know how-to live out our faith.

THE CITY OF CORINTH...

- Experienced a degree of wealth & luxury.
 - BUT... it was mingled with a wide variety of immoral living.

IN FACT...

- There were popular labels associated with people from here.
 - 1) “He lives like a Corinthian
 - 2) “He speaks like a Corinthian

(1 Cor. 6:12)

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”

CORINTH...

- Sat at the crossroads of Greek & Roman culture.

AND THE GREEK’S...

- Prided themselves on:
 - Public speaking
 - Debate
 - Philosophical arguments.

~ STUDY ~

WHY THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE MATTERS?

BECAUSE...

- It teaches us two truths:

IDEA #1 – A PERSONALITY-DRIVEN CHURCH IS A PROBLEM

Personality-driven churches...

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- Are to be rejected because they divide the body of Christ.

IN CORINTH... THE CHURCH...

- Mimicked the culture by going after eloquent speakers.
 - But... Paul brought truth that changed lives.

THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH ERRORED...

- By judging leaders on the platform of eloquence of speech...
 - AND not faithfulness.

NOW... PAUL WAS FULLY TRAINED IN RHETORIC...

- But he refused to play the Corinthian game.

(1 Cor. 1:17) NKJV

“...Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.”

(1 Cor. 2:4-5) NKJV

“... my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

HERE’S THE ISSUE...

- If impressive speech replaces dependence on God – there’s a problem.
- If style overshadows the power of the cross – there’s a problem.
- If faith becomes admiration instead of transformation – there’s a problem.

IDEA #2 – THE WISDOM OF MAN DOES NOT PRODUCE LIFE

WE CANNOT SIDE STEP...

- Truth that corrects us & checks our heart.

(Jer. 45:5) NLT

“Are you seeking great things for yourself? Don’t do it!”

GOD’S... NOT REBUKING APPROPRIATE AMBITION...

- He’s giving a **reality check** to the season at hand.
- *Personal advancement should not outweighs truth.*

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- *Spiritual life matters more than the appearance of success.*
- *Faithfulness is not measured BY what a man possess...*
 - *BUT... by what possess a man.*

(v.18)

- Paul mentions **two-groups** of people...
 - 1) Those who are **perishing**
 - 2) Those who are **being saved**

THE CHOICES YOU'RE MAKING RIGHT NOW...

- Are revealing the road you're walking on.

(1 Cor. 6:9-11) NLT

(James 4:17) NLT

PAUL SAYS...

- This message is **foolishness** to those who are perishing.
- He's **literally saying** that those who are rejecting the way of the cross are...
 - Notably stupid & lacking in good judgment.

HERE'S THE KEY AS WE CLOSE:

Entertainment in churches can attract people...

- But it's only the power of the Gospel...
 - That has the ability to transform a life.