

THE BLESSINGS OF BELONGING TO CHRIST

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

TRUE WISDOM DOESN'T COME FROM THIS WORLD, BUT FROM GOD

- *“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks he is wise in this age, let him become a fool so that he can become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...” (1 Corinthians 3:18-19a)*
- **When we try to be “wise” in the world’s eyes we end up being fools in the Lord’s eyes.**
- *“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)*
- **We must choose whether we want to be accepted by the people of this world according to worldly ways or be accepted by God by embracing a kingdom perspective.**
- *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.” (1 John 2:15-17)*

GOD IS EVALUATING ALL THAT WE THINK AND DO

- *“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, since it is written, He catches the wise in their craftiness; 20 and again, The Lord knows that the reasonings of the wise are futile.” (1 Corinthians 3:19-20)*
- **The sobering reality we must acknowledge is that we can’t hide anything from God, which should motivate us to pursue His wisdom and apply it in our lives.**

WE ARE BLESSED BECAUSE WE BELONG TO CHRIST

- *So let no one boast in human leaders, for everything is yours— 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come—*

everything is yours, 23 and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.” (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

- **“God has made all un sinful things for our blessing, good, joy, and pleasure.” – D. Akin**
- **Pursuing the wisdom and ways of this age will leave us wanting and empty.**
- *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” (James 1:17a)*
- **There is nothing worth having that God withholds from those who belong to Christ.**
- *“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law[b] of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2 ESV)*

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation

- According to verse 18, what warning does Paul give about being “wise in this age”?
- In verses 19–20, how does God view the wisdom of the world?
- What does Paul mean in verses 22–23 when he says, “Everything is yours... and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God”?

Understanding

- The world often equates wisdom with intelligence, success, or influence. How does God’s definition of wisdom differ from the world’s definition?
- What are some ways you personally feel pressure to appear “wise” or “successful” by the world’s standards? How can you resist that pressure and pursue godly wisdom instead?
- Paul says, “The Lord knows that the reasonings of the wise are futile.” What does that teach us about how God views our motives?
- Why do you think it’s so easy to rely on human reasoning instead of trusting God’s Word?
- How can remembering that God sees everything motivate us to live with greater integrity and humility?
- How can truly believing that “you belong to Christ” change the way you handle stress, comparison, or insecurity?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?