

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 1:13-31

- Paul is writing the Church here in Corinth from Ephesus concerned about the direction that the Church was headed in. After identifying himself both as an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and the writer of this letter he then goes on to confront the problems that have come to his attention, and the first problem he speaks to is divisiveness that has become prominent within the body.
- The members of this church have begun to practice what many of them did before confessing themselves as Christians, and that is declare themselves as a follower of a particular teaching that appeals to them. In Corinth there was many false gods to choose from like Aphrodite the goddess of love, Athena the goddess of wisdom, Ares the god of war, Dionysus the god of pleasure, Artemis the goddess of nature.
- You simply choose one to worship that fits yr way of thinking and lifestyle, well the people had started to do this within the church, but instead of choosing from false deities, they chose from their favorite teachers. Saying I'm a follower of Paul, Peter, or Apollos, their who I listen to, so I'm of the Paul party, the Peter party, the Apollo party and this bought factions-division within the church causing a lot of disunity.
- For the enemy knows a divided Church is a defeated Church, for if it cannot have peace with each other then how will they be able to preach the gospel of peace to others, the answer is they can't. What I like about this is not only does Paul mention the problem but he also exposes where he heard it from the household of Chloe.
- I tell you why this is important by exposing Chloe as the source it meant she had no problem being a part of the solution, many will expose a problem but make an agreement that whoever confront the person not mention their name. If you are willing to expose the problem be ready to be a part of the solution, even if that means those you are telling on find out it was you who did the telling.

- **V13-17** Paul exposes this as fleshly thinking asking three questions > **1.** Is Christ divided? **2.** Was Paul crucified for you? **3.** Were you baptized in the name of Paul? In other words the people you claim to be following had nothing to do with this kind of thinking, you made it up to fit what you wanted to do. Often when people are being divisive they'll find use a reputable name to justify the damage that they are causing
- Paul tells them that Christ doesn't belong to a particular person or group, and that following a person and putting a doctrine behind it is foolish. Also Paul says that he was so busy preaching and teaching the gospel that he didn't even know who he had personally baptized, so if he's not claiming to be doing something different then what Peter or Apollos is doing then how can you!
- **Translation:** Peter, Apollos, and he are following Jesus, and are on one accord, so stop majoring in the minors, and focus on the business of soul winning. Notice Paul is very matter of fact with the Corinthians because they were accustomed to following people who had great oratory skills and could win people over with their words, so he says he did not preach the gospel with wisdom of words in order for the cross of Jesus to be magnified and not his intellect which the Greeks worshipped.
- **V18-21** we see a person can only be moving in one of two directions they are either perishing moving away from The Lord or those who are saved drawing closer to The Lord. Also he say its impossible to preach the gospel without mentioning the cross, the pastor of the largest church in America said years ago that he wasn't going to preach about sin anymore, that means he wasn't going to mention the cross.
- It's impossible to mention the cross and not describe why He went there, for our sins, to declare something like that comes from the false wisdom of man. Which is being exposed here, as he says the wisdom of the world has been made foolishness by God, in fact God says he will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent, as he quotes **Is 29:14**. This all shows how the saved sees the cross, and how the unsaved sees the cross, it's a big distinction.
- **V22-25** after asking where is the wise, the scribe, the disputer of this age, these are people who try and solve every issue by human reasoning. The world we read through its wisdom did no know God, the tendency is to think that because someone is smart and wise they will know the most about God, but God is not found through human wisdom and intellect, its only through the message of the cross that we can see the love, grace and mercy of God, and embrace it for ourselves.

- **V26-28** this is our calling folks, not many wise, not many noble, not the mighty, in the flesh are called why? Because then it would be because of them and not a work of God, so God chose the foolish things of this world to put to shame the wise, the weak things of this world to put to shame the things that are mighty.
- These are humbling words, the Bible is not for the proud, as it is bad news for those who are looking to exalt themselves, for scripture says if you are to come to Jesus you cannot put your trust in yourself, or this world, as we nor anyone else can save us from sin or ourselves, only a right relationship with Jesus will do that. To the wise, and mighty of this world that's foolishness, to the weak and humble that's the good news, as you know how incapable you are of saving yourself amen!
- **V29-31** this tells us why? So no flesh can glory in God's presence! No one will ever stand before God and declare "**I figured You out**" or "**I did it my way and not Your way and it worked**". Nothing of the flesh will glory in His presence period! If you want true wisdom, then that comes from believing in Jesus, for He is the wisdom of God, and the **Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption**, of God.
- For true wisdom isn't about getting smart, but getting right with our God, for that allows us to become **Righteous**- declared not guilty, **Sanctified**- separated from the world and belonging to God, **Redeemed**- set free from the bondage we were in. That folks is true wisdom that can only come from the Father above Amen!