

**Activating Our Position in Christ****1 Corinthians 3:18-23****Living Within the Wisdom of Christ**

**1 Corinthians 3:18–23 (ESV) — Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.**

**Paul is continuing to help the Corinthians understand the defeat and bondage of human wisdom as opposed to the victory and freedom of God’s wisdom...**

**1 Corinthians 1:30 (ESV) — And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption**

**1. Develop your SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION**

**1 Corinthians 3:18–20 (ESV) — Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”**

**First, what is self-deception?**

**Self-deception occurs when a person tries to justify his thoughts, words, and actions and refuses to admit wrong.**

**Second, how does self-deception manifest in believers?**

**1 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) — Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.**

**Notice that Paul is referring to the believers in the Church...**

**Also notice that he is referring to the wisdom IN THIS AGE!**

**Human, worldly wisdom manifests itself in a desire to be independent, govern our own lives, and manage our own affairs rather than submit to the lordship of Christ.**

**We have already seen the foolishness of human wisdom in this letter...**

**1 Corinthians 1:20 (ESV) — Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

**Paul is now letting them know that any believer attempting to follow human wisdom is living in self-deception!**

**We can be deceived by a cultural morality that is in reality, Biblical immorality!**

**1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (ESV) — Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor**

**thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.**

**We can also be deceived by the “company” we hang around with...**

**1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV) — Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”**

**We can also be deceived into believing that how we live our lives is not important...**

**Galatians 6:7 (ESV) — Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**

**Again, let me remind you of the foundation of human wisdom...**

**Human, worldly wisdom manifests itself in a desire to be independent, govern our own lives, and manage our own affairs rather than submit to the lordship of Christ.**

➤ **Anyone with a HIGH view of HUMAN wisdom will always have a LOW view of SCRIPTURE!**

**Paul then ends verse 18 by giving us the solution for developing spiritual perception...**

**1 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) — Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.**

**Becoming a “fool” according to human wisdom means to believe in the power of the Cross of Jesus!**

**1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV) — For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:25 (ESV) — For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

**What does God’s wisdom look like?**

**James 3:17 (ESV) — But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.**

**1. Develop your SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION**

**2. Enjoy your EARTHLY PROVISION**

**1 Corinthians 3:21–22 (ESV) — So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours**

**In this passage lies a shocking statement...**

**1 Corinthians 3:21–22 (ESV) — ... For all things are yours ... all are yours**

**What does this mean?**

**It means what it says!**

**First of all... everything belongs to the Lord!**

**Psalm 24:1 (ESV) — The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein**

→ Paul actually quotes this verse in 1 Cor. 10:26!

So, what has he given to His Church?

Do you remember when we were going through 2 Peter?

**2 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV) — His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.**

→ **He has provided you the gift of ministers...**

**1 Corinthians 3:21 (ESV) — So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas**

**Ephesians 4:11–14 (ESV) — And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.**

→ **He has provided you the gift of freedom...**

**1 Corinthians 3:21–22 (ESV) — ... For all things are yours, whether ... the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours**

➤ **Christ's VICTORY has provided you FREEDOM over the five TYRANNIES in which HUMANITY finds itself ENSLAVED!**

All humanity is enslaved to these FIVE areas...

→ **The World**

**1 John 5:19 (ESV) — We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**

→ **Life**

**John 1:4 (ESV) — In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

**John 10:10 (ESV) — The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

→ **Death**

**1 John 4:18 (ESV) — There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

**1 Corinthians 15:54–55 (ESV) — 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"**

→ ***The Present***

**Titus 2:11–12 (ESV)** — *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,*

→ ***The Future***

**Titus 2:13 (NLT)** — *While we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.*

Notice that Paul used these **FIVE TYRANNIES** elsewhere...

**Romans 8:38–39 (ESV)** — *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**1. Develop your SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION**

**2. Enjoy your EARTHLY PROVISION**

**3. Submit to your ETERNAL POSITION**

**1 Corinthians 3:22b–23 (ESV)** — *all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*

**When we live within our ETERNAL POSITION we walk in the freedom and victory won in Christ!**

**1 Corinthians 6:19b–20 (ESV)** — *You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

**Let us have the same mind Jesus had while He walked upon earth...**

**Luke 22:42 (ESV)** — *“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”*

**John 17:4 (ESV)** — *I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*

➤ ***Every believer POSITIONS themselves to live within Christ's wisdom through DAILY SURRENDER***

**Colossians 3:3 (ESV)** — *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

**Galatians 2:20 (ESV)** — *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**Activating Our Position in Christ**  
**1 Corinthians 3:18-23**  
**Living Within the Wisdom of Christ**

**1. Develop your \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Anyone with a \_\_\_\_\_ view of \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom will  
always have a \_\_\_\_\_ view of \_\_\_\_\_!**

**2. Enjoy your \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ has provided you \_\_\_\_\_ over  
the five \_\_\_\_\_ in which \_\_\_\_\_ finds itself  
\_\_\_\_\_!**

**3. Submit to your \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Every believer \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to live within Christ's  
wisdom through \_\_\_\_\_**