

The Wreckage and the Fire Pt 10

THE KINGDOM CALL — "Become a Fool"

- ***Mōros* — fool, one who appears without wisdom by the world's standard.**
- Paul is not calling them to ignorance. He is calling them to surrender.
- Surrender the system. Release the standard. Reject the measurement.

So if the wisdom they were carrying was counterfeit what does the real thing look like? Paul does not leave that question unanswered. He gives you a test. And the test is not complicated. It is not academic. It does not require a seminary degree.

The test is this: What does your wisdom produce?

- You can always identify counterfeit currency — not by studying the fake, but by knowing the real.

Paul is moving to what they possess — he shows them what true wisdom produces. Because...

YOU CANNOT CARRY AN INHERITANCE YOU ARE NOT WISE ENOUGH TO STEWARD.

So, he gives them the test:

Three marks. Three mirrors. Three ways to know whether what you are calling wisdom is from God or from Corinth.

True Wisdom Builds, It Does Not Break

- **If what you call wisdom is producing division — it is not from God.**
- **The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason (James 3:17).**
- Anything that cannot pass that test is not wisdom. It is the world dressed in a spiritual disguise.
 - Ask yourself: **does what I am calling wisdom build the Body or break it?**
 - **Does it draw people toward Christ or drive them toward camps?**

If it does not produce UNITY, it is not wisdom. If it does not BUILD THE BODY, it is not from God.

True Wisdom Bows, It Does Not Boast

- Job 5:13 - God catches the wise in their own craftiness. The trap of the wise is always their own cleverness. It becomes the net they fall into.
- True wisdom recognizes the limits of human intelligence before the face of God. The wisest person in the room is usually the quietest one — not because they have nothing to say, but because they have learned that God is in the room and that changes everything.

The beginning of true wisdom is the moment you stop trusting your own assessment of yourself.

True Wisdom Begins at the Cross, Not at the Campus

- Psalm 94:11 - The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.

- ***Mataios* - futile, empty, vapor. God calls the best of human wisdom empty.**
- Not wrong - empty. It has no substance. It cannot carry the weight of eternity.

**The CROSS is not the STARTING POINT OF WISDOM.
THE CROSS IS the wisdom. There is no wisdom
beyond it.**

TRANSITION INTRODUCTION — FROM CORRECTION TO CORONATION

Now Paul moves — and the atmosphere changes.
Because everything he has said so far has been a scalpel

WHAT COMES NEXT IS A CROWN:

- **Paul has spent this entire passage doing surgery.**
- **He has cut into carnality.**
- **He has exposed immaturity. He has confronted self-deception.**
- **He has done what every good physician does — he named what was killing them.**

But a good surgeon does not walk away from the table when the operation is done.

- **He closes the wound.**
- **He covers what he opened.**

He makes sure that when the patient wakes up — they are better, not just different.

He has been telling them what they ARE doing wrong. Now he is about to tell them what they ARE.

I need you to understand something about the way Paul writes;

- **He never ends a rebuke without a revelation.**
- **He never closes a wound without leaving something better inside it.**

He told them they were carnal — but then he told them they were God's field and God's building.

He told them they were building with straw — but then he showed them a foundation that cannot be shaken.

He told them they were self-deceived — but then he offered them the wisdom of God.

And now — after everything — after the factions and the immaturity and the foolishness — Paul reaches into the deepest well in the letter so far. AND HE PULLS OUT THE MOST STAGGERING DECLARATION OF INHERITANCE IN THE ENTIRE PASSAGE.

It is not more rebuke. It is revelation. And revelation always arrives after the surgery is done.

THE QUESTION PAUL ASKS BEFORE HE DECLARES:

Before Paul tells them what they HAVE — he confronts how they have been living.

- They had been saying: I belong to Paul.
- They had been saying: I belong to Apollos.
- They had been organizing their entire spiritual identity around the servants of God.

And Paul looks at all of it — the camps, the banners, the faction meetings, the loyalty pledges — And he asks the question that should have ended every argument before it started:

WHY ARE YOU PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO SERVANTS — WHEN YOU WERE MEANT TO REIGN WITH THE KING?

- You are not a fan of a preacher. You are an heir of God.
- You are not a member of a camp. You are a citizen of a Kingdom.
- You are not a follower of a servant. You are a son or daughter of the One the servant works for.

THERE IS SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG WITH AN HEIR WHO THINKS LIKE AN ORPHAN.

THE INHERITANCE THEY DID NOT KNOW THEY HAD:

Let me tell you what happens in the ancient world when a father dies and leaves an inheritance.

The heirs gather. The will is read. And everything the father owned — transfers.

- **It does not matter if the heir is ready for it.**
- **It does not matter if the heir feels worthy of it.**

- **It does not matter if the heir has been living like they deserve nothing.**

The moment the will is read — what belonged to the father belongs to the heir. Not because they earned it. Because they are IN the family.

Paul is about to read the will. And the Corinthians — carnal, factional, immature as they are — are still IN the family.

- **They have not been written out of the will because they formed factions.**
- **They have not forfeited the inheritance because they were still spiritually immature.**
- **They have not lost their position in the family because they were building with straw.**

THE FATHER'S WEALTH DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE HEIR'S WORTHINESS. IT DEPENDS ON THE FATHER'S GENEROSITY.

And this Father — this God who planted fire in Corinth, who wrote them letters instead of walking away — His generosity has no floor.

THE WORD BEFORE THE WORD

Paul is about to say: ALL THINGS ARE YOURS.

- **Not some things.**
- **Not the things you have earned.**
- **Not the things you are mature enough to handle.**

ALL THINGS.

And I need you to sit with that for just a moment before we unpack it. Because the Corinthians had been living like NOTHING was theirs.

- **They were fighting over which preacher they belonged to — as if belonging to a preacher gave them something.**
- **They were competing for status in a congregation — as if status in a room of a hundred people meant anything.**
- **They were dividing over spiritual gifts — as if gifts were something to own rather than something to steward.**

They were fighting over crumbs. And they owned the bakery.

THE TRAGEDY OF CORINTH IS NOT THAT THEY WERE CARNAL. THE TRAGEDY IS THAT THEY WERE CARNAL WHILE CARRYING AN INHERITANCE THEY NEVER OPENED.

ONE MORE THING BEFORE THE POINTS

Paul does not just tell them what they **HAVE**. He tells them **WHY** they have it. And the reason is the most important sentence in the entire passage.

YOU ARE CHRIST'S = AND CHRIST IS GOD'S.

- You are not a free agent drifting through a spiritual marketplace.
- You are not an orphan trying to attach yourself to whoever seems most impressive.
- You are not a religious consumer looking for the best option on the shelf.

You are IN a chain. A chain that begins with you — runs through Christ — and ends at the throne of God.

Everything you are about to hear belongs to you — because of where you belong.

I AM NOT FIGHTING OVER FRAGMENTS. I AM WALKING INTO FULLNESS. BECAUSE ALL THINGS ARE MINE — AND I AM CHRIST'S.

Somebody say: All things are mine!

1. THE POSSESSION HE CONFERS

1 Corinthians 3:21–22 - *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.*

THE MOST SWEEPING DECLARATION OF INHERITANCE IN PAUL'S EARLY LETTERS

- Paul takes the very names Corinth was using as faction banners And says: all of them belong to YOU.
- You do not belong to Paul. Paul belongs to you.
- You do not belong to Apollos. Apollos belongs to you.

THEIR ERROR — PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO SERVANTS

- "I am of Paul" — pledging loyalty to the one who planted.
- "I am of Apollos" — pledging loyalty to the one who watered.

Paul says: you have the order completely reversed. The servant does not own the beneficiary. The beneficiary owns the servant. Farmers work for the harvest — the harvest does not work for the farmers.

You were never meant to be a follower of a servant. You are an heir of the King.

PAUL'S CORRECTION - HE EXPANDS IT - WATCH HOW FAR THE INHERITANCE REACHES

The World Is Yours - You Are Not at Its Mercy

- ***Kosmos*** — the created order, the systems of this age, the arena of human existence.

- Corinth was being shaped by the world — its values, its metrics, its definitions of worth.

Paul says: You are not subject to what you have been given dominion over.

- The world does not define you. You are not shaped by its pressures.
- You are an heir of God — the world is in your inheritance, not your inheritance in the world.

The world was given to you as an arena of mission, not as a master of your identity.

Life Is Yours - You Do Not Live on Borrowed Terms

- Zōē - life in its fullest sense. Not just biological existence. Abundant, purposeful, Spirit-breathed life.
- Corinth was living by Corinth's terms - status, eloquence, faction, performance.
- Paul says: you own life. You do not owe it to any system, any camp, any cultural standard.

**Stop living like a tenant in a life that belongs to you.
Stop asking the culture for permission to live as a child
of God.**

Life is yours — which means how you live it is an act of ownership, not obligation.

Death Is Yours - It Has Lost Its Sting and Its Dominion

- This is the most radical claim in the list. Death is yours.
- Not that you will escape death, but that death has been placed under your inheritance.
- 1 Corinthians 15:55 — O death, where is your sting?
O grave, where is your victory?

The believer does not fear what they own. You are not running from death. You are walking toward it as the door to something greater. Death is not your enemy. It is your final transition into the fullness of what you already are.

The Present and the Future Are Yours - God Is Already There

- *Ta enestōta* — the present things, all that is current, immediate, pressing.
- *Ta mellonta* — the future things, all that is coming, approaching, not yet arrived.
- **Both tenses of time belong to the believer.**

You are not a victim of your present - God is in it. You are not anxious about your future - God is already there. Time itself is your servant. The eternal God has placed even the calendar in your inheritance.

Why are you fighting over platforms...when you've been given possession of everything? Stop competing over fragments when you've been given fullness.

"All things are mine, because I am Christ's, and Christ is God's."

Somebody say: *"All things are mine!"*

2. THE POSITION HE CONFIRMS

1 Corinthians 3:23 - *And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*

FOUR WORDS IN GREEK: **HYMEIS DE CHRISTOU = AND YOU ARE OF CHRIST.**

- **This is the most compressed theological statement in the passage.**

Paul has built an enormous argument about identity, protection, wisdom, and inheritance. And he anchors the entire thing in four words. **Everything you have been given flows from where you belong.**

(All on one Slide) THE DIVINE ORDER - THE CHAIN OF YOUR IDENTITY

- All things → You
- You → Christ
- Christ → God

*You are not disconnected...you are divinely connected.
You are not drifting...you are anchored in eternity.*

**YOU ARE HELD BY A CHAIN THAT REACHES ALL THE
WAY TO THE THRONE.**

**WATCH WHAT THIS CHAIN DOES TO EVERY
CORINTHIAN FACTION:**

- "I am of Paul" — that breaks the chain. Paul is not the anchor.
- "I am of Apollos" — that breaks the chain. Apollos is not the anchor.
- "I am of Cephas" — that breaks the chain. Peter is not the anchor.
- "I am of Christ" — only this statement keeps the chain intact.

**Every faction is an attempt to insert a human link
where only Christ belongs.**

**THE THEOLOGY OF BELONGING — THREE
DIMENSIONS**

You Belong to Christ - Which Means You Are Secured

- **Hymeis Christou — you are of Christ. Possessive. Covenantal. Permanent.**
- This is a legal declaration.
- You have been purchased, claimed, sealed, and identified as the possession of Jesus Christ.

No faction can claim you — you already belong to Someone. No culture can define you — your identity is already established. No enemy can own you — you are already owned by the One who defeated every enemy.

Christ Belongs to the Father - Which Means You Are Connected to the Source

- Christos de Theou - Christ is of God. The Son belongs to the Father.
- This is Trinitarian theology with pastoral application.
- Because Christ belongs to the Father - and you belong to Christ
- You are connected, through Christ, to the Father Himself.

- **Your chain does not end at Jesus. It runs through Jesus all the way to the throne.**

The Father's resources, the Father's protection, the Father's purpose - all flow down the chain to you.

You are not two steps removed from God. You are in Christ — who is in the Father.

The Chain Cannot Be Broken - Which Means You Are Sustained

- Nothing in all of creation can sever what God has joined (Romans 8:38–39).
- Not death. Not life. Not angels. Not principalities. Not things present. Not things to come.
- Paul has just told us that all those things — life, death, present, future — belong to the believer.

And now he tells us the reason: because you belong to Christ — who belongs to God. The chain is unbreakable because both ends are held by God.

You are not held by your own strength. You are held by a God who has never lost anyone He chose to keep.

THE FINAL WORD ON FACTIONS — WHY THEY ARE THEOLOGICALLY RIDICULOUS

The faction system is not just spiritually immature. It is theologically incoherent. You cannot simultaneously claim to belong to the chain and spend your life fighting over the links.

Say it! *"I am not Paul's. I am not Apollos's. I am not my denomination's. I am Christ's — and Christ is God's."*

You belong to the chain that reaches the throne!"

CONCLUSION: THE MIRROR THAT REVEALS

- Paul does not leave them with behavior. He leaves them with identity.

When identity is revealed...Behavior is recalibrated.

FINAL QUESTIONS

- Do your words reflect a temple... or a trash heap?
- Do your relationships reveal holiness... or hostility?
- Do you carry yourself like something sacred... or something common?

I AM NOT EMPTY. I AM NOT ORDINARY. I AM NOT INCIDENTAL. I AM INHABITED!

- You don't visit His presence...You live from it.
- You don't host Him occasionally...He dwells in you continually.

You are the temple. Now...Live like something holy lives inside of you.