

# 1 CORINTHIANS

LEARNING TO LIVE BY THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

**"The Guardrails of Christian Unity"**

***1 Corinthians 3:18-23***



## 3 Protections for Christians in keeping the unity of the Church

1. Avoid self-deception by pursuing biblical wisdom instead of worldly foolishness. (v.18-20)





**“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:8-10**

**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,  
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7**

**“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5**



### 3 Protections for Christians in keeping the unity of the Church

1. Avoid self-deception by pursuing biblical wisdom instead of worldly foolishness. (v.18-20)
2. Abstain from boasting in men by seeing God's servants from a biblical perspective. (v.21-22)



**“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”**

**“For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s *household*, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” 1 Corinthians 1:10-13**



The background features a soft, painterly illustration of a classical building with columns on the left side. A bright, glowing light source is positioned in the upper right corner, creating a lens flare effect that illuminates the scene. The overall color palette is warm and ethereal, with soft pinks, purples, and yellows.

**“Thus says the LORD:**

**“Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom,  
Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might,  
Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;  
But let him who glories glory in this,  
That he understands and knows Me,  
That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness,  
judgment, and righteousness in the earth.  
For in these I delight,” says the LORD.”**

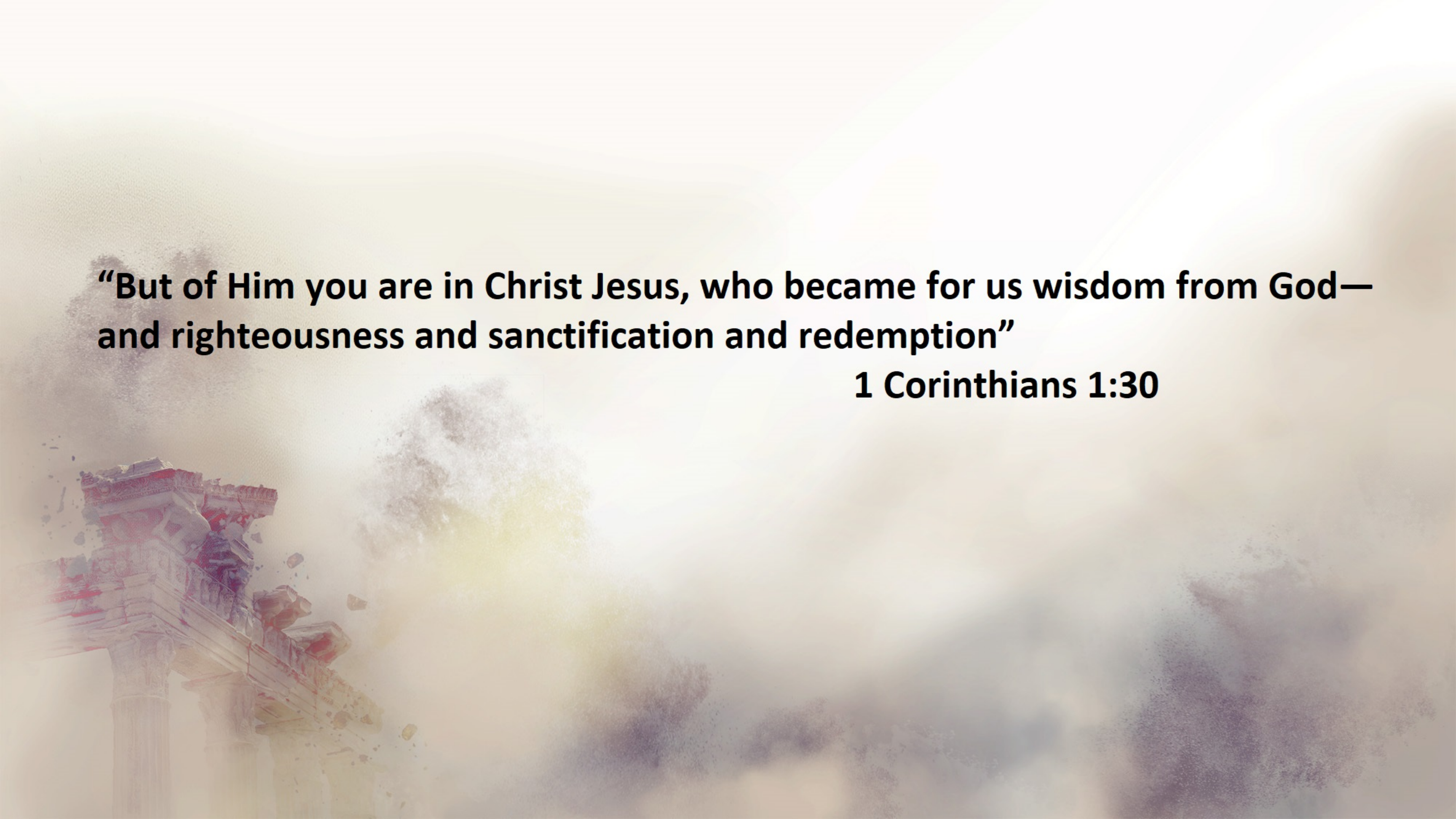
**Jeremiah 9:23-24**



### 3 Protections for Christians in keeping the unity of the Church

1. Avoid self-deception by pursuing biblical wisdom instead of worldly foolishness. (v.18-20)
2. Abstain from boasting in men by seeing God's servants from a biblical perspective. (v.21-22)
3. Amplify your belonging to Christ as the primary factor in eliminating division in God's church. (v.23)





**“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—  
and righteousness and sanctification and redemption”**

**1 Corinthians 1:30**