**1 Corinthians 1-3**

(46th book – 7th book of the New Testament – written by Paul to the Church in Corinth around 55 A.D. to solve some problems he was hearing about in the Church)

Today’s Summary: Gosh, such a great reminder by Paul that we worship Jesus alone, not leaders or pastors or worship bands or singers philosophies or worldly intelligence. That division in churches happen when we start to idolize man instead of our Maker, and try to be smarty pants relying on human wisdom instead of God’s wisdom found in the Scriptures. Why does this happen? Because we are still wanting to satisfy our flesh, our insecurities and we want to fit into the culture and be liked, so we want to align with the popular people and men to give us significance and worth instead of humbly surrendering to Him, knowing its in Him alone that we get true identity. I think we are probably all guilty of this to a certain degree. Church should be a family of believers UNIFIED around the BIBLE and helping each other live the most HOLY, HUMBLE life until He comes back for His Bride, rebuking and purifying and encouraging each other so we die to the flesh and Satan’s attempts to distract us with the zillions of idols of the temporal world. It takes work to keep our IDENTITY secure in Him alone, but that is what the Church, and the BIAY community of believers is all about. And that’s Paul’s whole point in this book, especially in a culture of promiscuity and self-focus gratification.

**1**Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

**2**To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - their Lord and ours: **3**Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

**4**I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. **5**For in HIM you have been enriched in every way - with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge - **6**God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. **7**Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. **8**He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9**God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Church Divided Over Leaders

**10**I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the NAME of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. **11**My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. **12**What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas(Peter)”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

**13**Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? **14**I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, **15**so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. **16**(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) **17**For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel - not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Christ Crucified Is God’s Power and Wisdom

**18**For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19**For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+1-3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28383c)]

**20**Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21**For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. **22**Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23**but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24**but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25**For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**26**Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. **27**But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. **28**God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, **29**so that no one may boast before him. **30**It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. **31**Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” *(Jeremiah 9:24)*

**2**And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. **2**For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3**I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. **4**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, **5**so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.

God’s Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

**6**We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. **7**No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. **8**None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **9**However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” - the things God has prepared for those who love him - **10**these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. **11**For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12**What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. **13**This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+1-3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28408g)] **14**The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. **15**The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, **16**for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+1-3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28411h)] But we have the mind of Christ.

The Church and Its Leaders

**3**Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly - mere infants in Christ. **2**I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. **3**You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? **4**For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?

**5**What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe - as the Lord has assigned to each his task. **6**I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. **7**So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. **8**The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. **9**For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

**10**By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. **11**For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12**If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, **13**their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. **14**If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. **15**If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved - even though only as one escaping through the flames.

**16**Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? **17**If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

**18**Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. **19**For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; **20**and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” **21**So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, **22**whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas(Peter) or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all are yours, **23**and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.