

## **I Corinthians 1: 10-17 Happy To Not Be The Center Of Attention 9/8/2024**

Intro: READ **Matthew 20:17-28 / I Corinthians 4:6 -7**

**Question:** Could you be happy embracing obscurity? Playing 2<sup>nd</sup> fiddle?

The Corinthian Christians had all they needed in Christ to grow in God's will for their lives individually and **especially cooperatively**.

**Last Week: I Cor. 1:1-9** READ As we saw last time Paul wants them to be rock solid in what the ALREADY have in Christ so they can move out from that point to fill in the character deficiencies over time.

**IDENTITY** is the key to growing in Christ.

**Question:** What does Christ say about you?

**Question:** What does Christ assume about you?

**Question:** What is more important; what you think about yourself or what Christ thinks about you?

**One word in those identity statements really stands out; SANCTIFIED**

I was taught that I was Justified; am in the process of being Sanctified; and will one day be glorified. All true, but more to the word SANCTIFIED that the process between being justified and being glorified.

SANCTIFIED also means something that happened the moment you got saved! A point-in-time event, like justification.

**I Cor. 1:2 "Have been sanctified"** ( I Cor. 1:30, Hebrews 10:10)

I bring it up because you are right in God's eyes and sanctified right now, even as you grow in sanctification. Otherwise, if you doubted it, this initial purification, then how discouraging it would be to feel that you need to start over again every time you are down.

**Ex. My friend gets a new job.** They liked his attitude, but he could not do the job yet. He told them, "Now that you've got the monkey; you have to train the monkey!"

In summary, Paul could not count them among the mature churches because they were not growing much in faith, hope, and love. They had every gift they needed to be a great church. Their prideful competition with each other and playing the "name-dropping" game would

hinder them. If they could not personally elevate themselves above others, then they would do so by association with greatness. This was the world of Corinth and Paul wants them free from it.

**W Nicoll Robertson-** "The Corinthian talent in matters of 'word and knowledge' ran into emulation ( to follow and copy the most popular) and frivolous disputes."

"The habit of seeming to know all about most things, and of being able to talk glibly about most things, would naturally tend to an excess of individuality, and a diminished sense of corporate responsibility."

**Hort-** His comment on excess of individuality- - " This fact, supplies under many different forms the main drift of I Corinthians."

Ex. Rock song- "Cult of Personality" ( Living Color).

### **TEXT: I Corinthians 1:10-17**

**1:10-** By mistaking the nature of the gospel, they mistake how their ministers behave. They assumed they would act like the philosophical blow-hards around them in their arrogant metropolis. Paul, Peter and Apollos complimented the work of each other.

**1:16-** Not Paul's practice to baptize. Not Peter's practice to baptize, Acts 10:44-48. Nor Jesus, John 4:1-2.

**1:17** Through the years, certain groups have tried to make water baptism necessary for salvation. Baptismal waters always on the ready! No external, physical act can add to salvation by grace through faith.

Ex. (unknown author) " It never occurred to Paul that a Christian minister's essential function was to administer baptism and the Lord's supper."

If water baptism saved then this would be a great place to connect it to faith .

Paul spends the most time at Corinth ( 1 ½ years) but gets little results. Later they do grow. They had to learn not to be absorbed by their culture.

**Question:** Where have you been absorbed into your culture that is not Christ-like?