

## **DON'T BOAST & DON'T FEAR**

### **1 Corinthians 3:16-23**

Ice Breaker: What is the most embarrassing thing you have ever done?

BACKGROUND: Paul is right in the middle of dealing with the problems/divisions in the church at Corinth. Here in chapter 3, he's laying out "God's Blueprint" for His church.

THE BIG PICTURE: Stop boasting in people and human wisdom. God's church is built on true wisdom.

DIGGING DEEPER:

#### **INTRODUCTION: 3:16-17**

- The "you" in verses 16-18 is plural, referring to the community as a whole. How would you explain to someone what Paul means by this picture? What difference does it make to remember you don't come to church — you are the church?
- Why does the church matter so much to God? What are the consequences of actively harming the church?

#### **DON'T BOAST BECAUSE HUMAN WISDOM IS FOOLISHNESS 3:18-19**

- How does the world view the cross? Christianity?
- Paul expresses God's view of what it means to be wise. What is true wisdom? What is the first step to true wisdom? (See 1 Peter 5:5)
- The Corinthians are an arrogant and conceited bunch, who take great pride in their wisdom. What reasons does Paul give to not boast in men, particularly in the wisdom of men?
- How do the two quotations from the Old Testament (Job 5:13 and Psalm 94:11) support and clarify Paul's statement in verse 19?
- Do you spend more time pursuing worldly knowledge or Godly wisdom? In what ways can Christians be influenced by the wisdom of the world? How can you stand against being influenced by the world's wisdom? What do you believe that the world regards as foolish?

#### **DON'T BOAST IN MAN BECAUSE ALL THINGS ARE YOURS: 3:21-23**

- Why is it folly to boast in men?
- What had God given to them/us? What is the point of mentioning that the Christian has all of these things? In what ways do your daily thoughts or concerns about these things Paul listed in verse 22 affect your life? What does God's grace represent in your life?

#### CONCLUSION:

Reject the worldly standards of wisdom. Grace means: (1) humility/we do need help; (2) encouragement/we have God's help.

\* To the self-sufficient: Your wisdom is foolishness. Give it up. Become a fool. Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of God.

\* To the fearful/insecure: Boasting in men is a cheap substitute for unfathomable inheriting the universe. Don't you know that God has given all things to you! Nothing held back.

All is yours because you belong to Jesus Christ. Be humble and bold! This is foolishness to the world, but the only way to true wisdom.

- What stands out to you as a personally significant insight this week? How will you apply it in your life?