

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



FOR DISCUSSION:

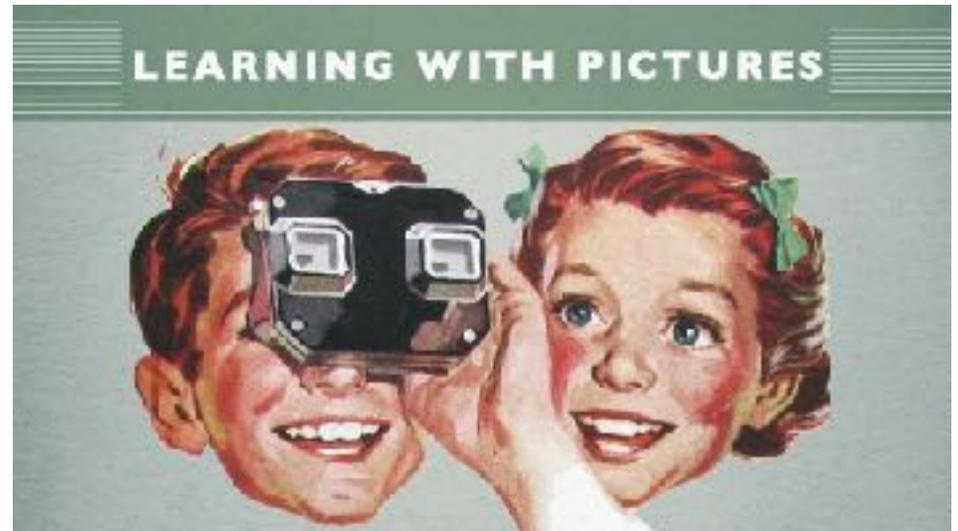
1. What word pictures have you most enjoyed from chapter 3 and why?
2. Using your honest evaluation, in which column of the chart do you stand and why are you there?
3. What problems arise in churches when human wisdom is the focus? What about human leaders as the focus?
4. Why does Paul want the people to know that “they already have everything that they could want”?
5. What application can you take away from this study?

SCRIPTURES

1Cor. 3:18 *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 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. (NIV2011)*

1Cor. 3:18 *Let no one deceive himself; if any one doth seem to be wise among you in this age — let him become a fool, that he may become wise, 19 for the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, for it hath been written, ‘Who is taking the wise in their craftiness;’ 20 and again, ‘The Lord doth know the reasonings of the wise, that they are vain.’ (Young’s)*

1Cor. 3:21 *So then, let no one glory in men, for all things are yours, 22 whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things about to be — all are yours, 23 and ye [are] Christ’s, and Christ [is] God’s. (Young’s)*



February 24 & 25, 2018 | Pictures #3 | 1Cor. 3:18-23 | Dennis Miller, pastor

TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES

1. It is said that “*a picture is worth a thousand words*,” and Paul uses that idea to SHARE his message in chapter 3.
2. The focus is that God BUILDS the church and that His people need to work toward MATURITY.

LET’S REVIEW

1. The Apostle Paul lived in Corinth for 18 months on his SECOND missionary journey. Several years later, after hearing of some CONFLICT in the church, he wrote this letter to them.
2. He began by reminding the people of the blessings of knowing Christ: in the past, GRACE; in the present, GIFTS; and in the future, GLORY. This is true for us today!
3. The purpose of this letter was to correct at least TEN spiritually unhealthy lifestyle PATTERNS — the first being divisions.
 4. In chapter 3, Paul uses WORD pictures. (*Babies, Follow the Leader, A Garden, A Building, A Bonfire, A Temple & Wise vs. Fools*)
 5. In today’s study, we see Paul REVIEW the topics of human WISDOM and human LEADERS one more time to drive his point home. In chapter 4 he moves to a STRONG warning — “*don’t make me come over there!*”

THE WISDOM AGAIN

1Cor. 3:18 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.” (NIV2011)

1Cor. 3:18 Let no one deceive himself; if any one doth seem to be wise among you in this age — let him become a fool, that he may become wise, 19 for the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, for it hath been written, ‘Who is taking the wise in their craftiness;’ 20 and again, ‘The Lord doth know the reasonings of the wise, that they are vain.’ (Young’s)

1. In this LAST section of chapter 3, Paul reviews his discussion in the previous sections and calls for ACTION.
2. He begins each of the last two paragraphs with the SAME words, “Let no one,” so as to stress the IMPORTANCE of his application.
3. In this paragraph (v. 18) Paul encourages the people to LOOK at themselves and evaluate HONESTLY.
4. The sentence on wisdom seems a RIDDLE at first, but careful reading shows that there are THREE kinds of people. Some have WORLDLY wisdom. Some understand that worldly wisdom isn’t enough and take the “FOOLISH” step toward faith. Still others have grown into full WISDOM in Christ.
5. This explanation of three kinds of people is CONSISTENT with his other two “pictures” from this chapter.

Unbeliever	“New” Believer	Mature Believer
Natural	Fleshly	Spiritual
Destroyers	Poor Builders	Good Builders
Worldly wise	“Fools” for Christ	Wise in Christ

6. Paul then uses the Old Testament again to PROVE his point about worldly wisdom.

Job 5:12 Making void thoughts of the subtle, And their hands do not execute wisdom. 13 Capturing the wise in their subtilty, And the counsel of wrestling ones was hastened, (Young’s)

Psalms 94:11 He knoweth the thoughts of man, that they [are] vanity. (Young’s)

THE LEADERS AGAIN

1Cor. 3:21 So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas 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. (NIV2011)

1Cor. 3:21 So then, let no one glory in men, for all things are yours, 22 whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things about to be — all are yours, 23 and ye [are] Christ’s, and Christ [is] God’s. (Young’s)

1. “So then,” brings us to the CONCLUSION of the matter.
2. There have been two main points of focus when it comes to division in the Corinthian church: one was worldly WISDOM (philosophies); the other is following human LEADERS.
3. The command, “no MORE boasting about humans leaders.”
4. And the reason is simply this: why follow ONE leader when you have access to them ALL? Each one teaches you something from a DIFFERENT perspective.
5. To take that a step FURTHER, as believers you already have everything! (A popular philosophical view in Paul’s day was that “the wise man possesses all things.” — Seneca)

Paul	Apollos	Peter
World	Life	Death (afterlife)
Present	The Future	All things

6. “You are Christ’s and Christ is God’s” is something that the philosophers DON’T have! “You are Christ’s” is easily understood, but what about the phrase “Christ is God’s”? The whole point of these chapters has been POSSESSION. You have given YOURSELF to Christ and He to the Father.

Phil. 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

APPLICATION

1. The church is the LORD’S. If we all “belong to God,” there is no point in DIVISIONS.
2. Don’t DECEIVE yourself. Where do you stand with Christ?