

I. Introduction: The Apostle called for the believers at Corinth to adjust their thinking to God's way of thinking, so that they would see reality from God's perspective.

- A. Paul told the Corinthian church that they were the temple of God, that they needed God's wisdom, and that they were God's possession.

II. Gaining God's Perspective (1 Cor 3:16-23).

A. God's Temple (vv. 16-17).

1. Paul told the Corinthians that they were God's temple, and that if any man tried to corrupt His church, God would destroy them in order to preserve His holiness.

B. God's Wisdom (vv. 18-20).

1. Paul warned the Corinthians about thinking they were wise, and instead encouraged them to seek God's wisdom, which the world said was foolish.

C. God's Possession (vv. 21-23).

1. Paul said that all of God's possessions are the church's possessions, in Christ. We will possess the world, life, death, things that are present, and things to come.

III. Conclusion: Paul encouraged the Corinthians to change their perspective, and see that the church is God's temple, that it needs His wisdom, and that it is His possession.

Questions About: Gaining God's Perspective

1. Who are you? What would you say defines you? What does God say about you? How is His view of you different than yours? Why is this question so important to answer?
2. What question did Paul start off with? (**vv. 16-17**) Why did Paul say, "Don't you know?" What else were the Corinthians not aware of? (**1 Cor 5:6; 6:2-3, 9, 15-16, 19; 9:13, 24**)
3. Why is it important that Christians know they are God's temple? (**vv. 16-17**) What is the critical implication? (**v. 17**) Why does God threaten those who would destroy His temple?
4. What deception did Paul warn the Corinthians about? (**vv. 18-20**) Do you think you are wise? How is wisdom different than knowledge? What is important about the phrase "in this age"?
5. What did Paul mean that they must become foolish to become wise? (**v. 18**) Why is the world's wisdom foolish to God? (**v. 19**) How does God catch the wise in their craftiness?
6. What does God think about the wisdom of the world? (**v. 20**) Why is it useless? How much wiser is God than man? If man's reason and God's reason conflict, who do you believe?
7. What was Paul's conclusion to this matter? (**vv. 21-23**) How do "all things" belong to believers? How did Paul change their thinking about belonging to certain leaders? (**v. 22**)
8. How are we God's possession? (**v. 23**) What was the cost of your salvation? (**1 Cor 6:19-20**) Do you know that God owns you? Are you living like Jesus is the Master of your life?

Prayer

1. Pray that God might reveal to you in a clearer way who you are in Christ.
2. Pray that you might live by God's wisdom, and that He might have more control over you.