

Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians

Consider Your Calling

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

1. **The People of God's Calling** (vs.26-28)

The divisions in the church mirrored the ideals of Corinthian culture instead of being directed by the teachings of Christ. Paul highlighted the social makeup of the local church in order to help them see this incongruity.

2. **The Power of God's Calling** (vs.27-30)

Paul reminded the Corinthian believers that the very reality of their being "in Christ Jesus" (v.30; cf. 2 Cor. 5:17) is a result of God's initiative (Rom. 8:28-30). Apart from God's action, no person would ever do what is right (Gen. 6:5; 8:21), desire to do what is right (Gal. 5:17), seek after God (Rom 3:11), or have faith in Him (John 10:26; Phil. 1:29). God's sovereign calling of a believer is not contingent upon anything for which man can claim credit (cf. Eph. 2:8-9). Remembering this is fundamental to a consistent Christian worldview.

3. **The Purpose of God's Calling** (vs.27-29)

In addition to showing His gracious mercy to undeserving sinners (cf. Rom. 5:8; 1 Tim. 1:15), God had another purpose in calling specific individuals to faith in Christ (cf. Rom 11:11).

A. To Shame the Wise of the World

The wisdom of the sinful world has always been at odds with God's revealed Word and what is truly wise (Gen. 3:1-6; cf. James 3:13-16). God's choice humiliates those who trust man's wisdom in order to please God (Phil. 3:2-7).

B. To Nullify the Things of the World

God's calling of society's cast-aways shows that the worldly system is utterly powerless to effect anything of lasting or eternal significance (cf. 1 Cor. 1:17).

C. To Eliminate Personal Boasting

Salvation is God rescuing of helpless, unworthy, and condemned sinners which results in His praise (Eph. 1:5-6). He has eliminated every possibility for man to boast while changing the hearts of the men he saves so that they would not want to boast (cf. Gal. 6:14).

4. **The Praise of God's Calling** (v.31)

Christians who have a proper consideration of their own calling will reject boasting in themselves and boast only in what God has done (Jer. 9:23-24; 2 Cor 10:17; cf. Rom. 15:17; Rev. 4:5-11).