

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 3

23 June 2017

THE GREAT CONTRAST:

CHAPTER 1, VSS. 1-9: WHAT GOD SEES

These are the positive things the Corinthian Church had; the spiritual blessings bestowed upon them by God's power and grace.

1. They are sanctified (vs. 2).

- **Sanctification of religion** commands you to separate from the things of the world. "Stay away from..." "Thou shalt not..." etc.
 - ⇒ Does not remove the desire and temptation to do those things.
 - ⇒ Still in bondage to the vices that hold you.
 - ⇒ You are religious, not fulfilled.
- **Biblical sanctification** is separation FROM SIN, but "IN CHRIST JESUS."
 - ⇒ You are free from your old life and given a new life in Christ.
 - ⇒ Free from sin UNTO righteousness.
 - ⇒ Free from darkness INTO light.
 - ⇒ Free from the Devil TO Jesus Christ.

2. They are recipients of God's grace (Vss. 3-4).

- ⇒ Saved by grace (past tense)
- ⇒ Still receiving God's grace daily.

3. Rich in all utterance and all knowledge (vs. 5).

- ⇒ Able to speak as God's representative.
- ⇒ Having knowledge of things that most men don't know (origin of man, future of man, Character of God, etc.).

4. They are gifted by God (vs. 7).

- ⇒ Supernaturally enabled to serve God.

5. Confirmed blameless unto the end (vs. 8).

- ⇒ This is God's work, not man's.
- ⇒ No flesh will glory in the Lord's presence (vss. 29-30).

VSS. 10-31: WHAT THE WORLD SEES

These are the things they lacked, which caused strife, division, contention, envy, competition, and disagreements.

1. They lacked unity of speech (vs. 10).

- ⇒ Their speech focused on their individual differences and preferences.
- ⇒ They should have talked about the things they had in common (see column to the left).

2. They lacked unity of purpose (vs. 10).

- ⇒ They were divided according to their own preferences as to how to serve God.
- ⇒ We may serve God in different ways, but for the same purpose.

3. They lacked unity of mind (vs. 10).

- ⇒ This doesn't mean you must look at things the same way.
- ⇒ It doesn't mean you have the same knowledge. Knowledge increases.
- ⇒ (Philippians 2:1-4) It means you're willing to take the lowest place and exercise grace toward the brethren who are still learning and who don't do everything like you.

4. They lacked unity of judgment (vs. 10).

- ⇒ Their standard of right and wrong was not united because they wouldn't agree to stand on what the Bible said.
- ⇒ If the Bible is your standard, the least person in the church can come to the right decision.

5. CONCLUSION: they lacked a heart application of what God had given them.

- ⇒ If your heart is not yielded to God's control, the church will be in a mess!

We MUST be in right fellowship with Jesus Christ in order to be what God wants us to be (vs. 9). If you and I are BOTH in right fellowship with the Lord, we will be united in all that we do. Don't lose sight of Jesus Christ!