

Postcards from Corinth - Part 2
Letting the Truth sink in.
1 Cor. 3:1-23
May 4, 2025

I. A HARD look at REALITY. (v.1-4)

A. They are BROTHERS/SISTERS...and yet BABIES. (v.1-2)

B. And ANYONE can tell by their ACTIONS.(v.3-4)

In our current culture sometimes a hard truth is avoided. We think that challenging words come from a place of control, or displeasure, or even hatred. But Paul loved the church at Corinth, and love calls for honesty.

1. Kid's Question:
2. How do we deal with others that we love whose actions are "out of line" with what is best for them? How comfortable are we in these kinds of situations?

II. Realigning REALITY with TRUTH. (v.5-15)

A. The ROLE we PLAY with each OTHER. (v.5-9)

B. God at WORK all along the WAY. (v.5-11)

C. Our SERVICE is CO-OPERATIVE action.(v.10-15)

Paul has given them the "milk" but now this is time for the "meat". They need to accept the truth and that means surrendering control and allowing God to align their lives with His truth...with His wisdom. It's God's work, and He invites us along to work with Him.

3. What are some of the ways others have played an important role in your own spiritual journey? How did they have this influence in your life?
4. Do you find it hard to balance what God does and what we do in our lives? Why or why not?
5. Jeff shared a metaphor about parents doing things with their children that sacrifice efficiency for the sake of relationship. How has God done this in your life? How open are you to engaging with God in this way?

III. Why THIS all MATTERS. (v.16-23)

A. This is BIGGER than just YOU (or ME). (v.16-17; 1 Cor. 12:12-13)

B. SURRENDERING to the true WISDOM. (v.18-20; 1:23-25)

C. All THINGS are YOURS. (v.21-23; Lk 15:31-32; Col. 2:2-3)

D. LIVING in light of the GIFT. (v.21-23; Heb 11:36-40; Jn 13:1,3-4)

This section (3:16-23) has so many profound truths that we can only begin to scratch the surface of what is being said here. But if we are willing to let the truth sink in, deeply in to the very core of our lives, these verses will shape everything about us from here on. Should we take that chance? I hope so.

6. Would you say you see your faith as more individualistic or communal? Why? How can we know the difference?
7. Does the truth that “all things are yours” shape your life? Why or why not? What challenges that truth in your day to day reality?
8. What might be one or two areas where a better understanding of this “gift” of all things might change the way you live this coming week?