

LESSON 3: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:11-31

Crisis in Corinth (cont'd)

1. Within the context of verse 13, what wrong emphasis and thinking do you think has become predominant in the Corinthian church? If Paul were writing today, what similar divisions in American Christianity might he address?

2. Recall that Paul's ministry in Corinth was described in Acts 18:1-18. What was his mission among the Corinthians? When he had been in Corinth, how did Paul conduct himself in order to avoid establishing his own personality cult (vv. 13-17)? Is there any evidence of hero worship in the Church today? Where does it lead (v. 13)?

3. Why must loyalty to Paul or any other human spiritual leader always be secondary to your commitment to Christ? Why do many Christians get confused about who they are following?

4. What is the message of the cross (v. 18)? (See 15:3-7; Phil. 2:6-11; and Col. 1:19-23.) Why is this message "foolishness to those who are perishing," but "the power of God" to believers?

5. Following from the last question: How is the cross the central message of our faith? (See also John 1:29; 3:14-16; and Rom. 3:23-25). How do we understand, apply, and proclaim the message of the cross in our lives and interactions with people?

6. Contrast the wisdom of God with the wisdom of men.

7. Why did God choose to express his power through foolishness, weakness, and lowliness (vv. 19-31)?

8. What does Paul enjoin the Corinthian Christians to remember (vv. 26-31)? Why had God chosen them? What do you need to remember? Why has God called and chosen you?