

A Formula To Eliminate Divisive Relationships

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1 Corinthians 3:18-23
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Intro:

- Our mission to reach people... Prayer, Proclamation, Prioritize...

Jn 13:35 "By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

* Why Jesus said - people will believe when they see LOVE one for another- good smell
People don't care what you say- but what you do!

1Cor 3:18-23 4 elements to avoid divisive relationships (church, job, home)

I. YOU MUST HAVE BIBILCAL VIEW OF SELF (3:18)

A. Don't fake yourself out, "fool" yourself, get serious

1. **The battle is in the MIND**

a. When come to church we think, "**what do I have to do?**"

b. The answer is not what you "do", but what you "think" (when think right act right)

2. Many try to do the right thing but aren't "thinking" right

Prov 23:7a "For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he:"

3. Why are you the way you are? (... because of the way you think)

NOTE:

1. So if you don't like the way you are --- change the way you think.

2. The good news Rom 12:2; Eph 4 what God wants to do is to "RENEW" our minds!

- People in health store ginseng- but the WOG will do it for free. (Go GNC- tell free a new mind)

4. **Gal 6:3** "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

5. **Gal 6:7** "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Eph 5:6 "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Paul said, times in which we live...

2 Tim. 3:13 "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, **deceiving**, and being **deceived**."

Picture of modern life today...

Titus 3:3 "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, **deceived**, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another."

*(Paul reminding Titus that was how we USED to live.)

* Is that what you want?

James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving** your own selves."

NOTE: People come here every week & do _____ James says , they are faking themselves out. When you don' t do what the book says...

James 1:26 "If any man among you seem to be religious, and **bridleth not his tongue**, but **deceiveth** his own heart, this man's **religion is vain**."

* **To get a grip on life - we MUST have a biblical view of self!** 1 Jn. 1:8

- The world tells you, "you can do it, you're the best...") then get in the word- just the opposite!

Text 3:18b (Paraphrase- "Better to be a saved moron than a lost genius.")

(3:19-20 read)

3:18b "Fool" the word KJV (Greek= "moro")

NOTE 1: What Paul is saying here is, just when you think you have life figures out - you don't!

NOTE 2: Paul is saying, "if you have to get counsel from a PHD that is lost or a godly truck driver that hasn't graduated from HS--- **go to the truck driver.**

II. YOU MUST HAVE A BIBLICAL VIEW OF OTHERS (3:21)

- A. Respect godly men DON'T **reverence** them. (a serious problem in Corinth)
 - 1. 1 Cor. 1:11-13; 3:3-7
 - 2. Don't glory in men- 1Cor 3:31; Gal 6:14
 - 3. The opposite- the guy says, "I don't trust any man." (Usually been hurt)
- * Get a perspective:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17
- * Don't reverence me, but respect me if I follow the word- or find another church.
- B. Take advantage of all men that God has made available to you. 1 Cor 3:21b

III. YOU MUST HAVE A BIBLICAL VIEW OF LIFE (3:22)

- A. God intends for you to have the best that this world has to offer.
 - 1. The ISSUES of life are to be faced with VICTORY not with FEAR.
 - a. Not Christians retreating- even though the war is real.
(We are MORE than conquerors)
 - b. Rom 8:33-39 What are you worried about? All are yours!

NOTE: We are to be INSULATED from the world not ISOLATED! Why we are here - to go get them!

- B. There are four things that insulated me from the world:
 - 1. The power of the cross
 - 2. The power of the Spirit of God
 - 3. The protection of the local church- many counselors, accountability
 - 4. The power of my PURPOSE in life- to proclaim the Gospel

IV. YOU MUST HAVE A BIBLICAL VIEW OF GOD (3:23)

- A. You belong to Christ- (Acts 20:28 We have been PURCHASED with His blood!)
 - 1. Thus He has the right to BOSS us around
- B. In Christ you belong to God
 - 1. **Jn 17:17-21; 24-26**

- * That is why it is absolutely necessary that there are NO DIVISIONS among us!
- * Why you just can't come & sit in a church & do nothing- that's carnality.
- * People come to Christ when they see a transformed life- by Christ's love in US!