

“Deception and Division in the Church at Corinth”

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

The Corinthians’ philosophia, or love of wisdom, permeated their culture and perverted their church. Consequently there was deception within and divisions among themselves.

- I. _____ within ourselves (18-20)
 - A. The _____ of self-deception (18)
 - 1. _____ self-deception (18a)
 - 2. _____ self-deception (18b)
 - B. The _____ of self-deception (19-20)
 - 1. God sees through _____ people (19)
 - 2. God sees through _____ people (20)
- II. _____ among ourselves (21-23)
 - A. The _____ (21a)
 - B. The _____ (21b-23)
 - 1. Our _____ in Christ (21b-22)
 - 2. Our _____ in Christ (23)

I believe that this ‘let him become a fool’ is one of the hardest words of Scripture to the proud hearts and minds of men. Like the brilliant intellectuals of ancient Greece our contemporaries have unbounded confidence in . . . human reason. They want to think their way to God by themselves, and to gain credit for discovering God by their own effort. But God resists such swellings of pride on the part of the finite creature. Of course men have been given minds to use, and they are never to stifle or smother them, but they must humble them reverently before the revelation of God, becoming in Paul’s word, ‘fools’.

- John R. W. Stott

No more, my God, I boast no more
Of all the duties I have done;
I quit the hopes I held before
To trust the merits of Thy Son.

Now for the love I bear his name,
What was my gain I count my loss,
My former pride I call my shame,
And nail my glory to His cross.

Yes, and I must and will esteem
All things but loss for Jesus' sake
O may my soul be found in Him,
And of His righteousness partake.

The best obedience of my hands
Dares not appear before Thy throne;
But faith can answer Thy demands
By pleading what my Lord has done.

- Isaac Watts