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FELLOWSHIP

**1 Corinthians 3:21-23**

**Do Not Boast in Human Leaders  
Boast in God**

by Bob DeWaay

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**Exhortation: Stop Boasting in Men**

**1 Corinthians 3:21a (CSB)**

So **let no one boast** in human leaders,

- The prohibition of boasting is in the present imperative.
- This is the third imperative in 3:18-21
- “So” shows that futile reasonings lead to self-delusion caused by worldly wisdom
- Those who are God’s field, God’s building, and God’s temple must give God all glory

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1

**Theology: The “Why”**

**1 Corinthians 3:21b (CSB)**

...**for everything is yours**—

- God’s promises in Christ are not sectarian
- No one who truly believes in Christ crucified will “miss out”
- Therefore boasting must only be in the Lord (1:29-31)
- “Everything” is comprehensive and eternal, as shown in the next verse

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2

**Theology: Content of the “Why”**

**1 Corinthians 3:22 (CSB)**

whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come—  
**everything is yours,**

- All servants of Christ will participate in God’s eternal promises
- There is no particular preacher who has a secret that will make us better off

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3

**All Glory Belongs to God**

**1 Corinthians 3:23 (CSB)**

and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

- The distinctions between gifts and servants is addressed in the next chapter
- This statement is addressed to those who know Christ and are therefore safe
- This does not diminish the truth of the deity of Christ (15:23-28)

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**Implications and Applications**

- We must not boast in man lest we dishonor God, our true “boast”
- Those who claim to know which human leaders are the best make false judgments
- Believe the promises of God

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5

## Boast in the Lord Not Man

### 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (CSB)

It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—in order that, as it is written: Let the one who boasts, **boast in the Lord**.

- This truth brackets Paul's teaching from 1:29-3:23
- It will be emphasized again (4:7)

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## Review: Unity In Christ

### 1 Corinthians 1:10, 12, 13a (NASB)

Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment...Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." ...**Has Christ been divided?**

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7

## Believe the Promises of God

### 2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (NASB)

For **as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us**. Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

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8