

What, Why and Who?

1 Corinthians 1.26-31

When we follow a personality in church because of his or her appeal, instead of following the Word, then a problem happens. The problem is that we can become bigger headed than we ought to be. This was the problem with the Church of Corinth. They had become very proud with themselves. They were proud about who they knew, who they followed or learned from. In many ways today, the church of America has become the same. "I attend 1st Christian Church," or, "I attend Saddleback Community church," or "I attend Stonebriar Community". We place a lot of emphasis on being connected to the right church, mostly for the wrong reasons. We have wrong pride.

Question becomes, can we have pride? Is there a Biblical pride that we can have? Yes, there is a pride that we can have. But the recipe, which is the title, is not what one would expect. To develop proper pride, let us look to what Paul wrote to the Church of Corinth, to our church today. We need to look at:

1. What we were:
 - a. Nothing. Foolish, weak, common. Romans 3.23 we see we can add sinners to the list.
 - b. God doesn't call us because of what we have to offer the Creator of everything. He called us in spite of what we were.
2. Why Christ called us:
 - a. Because we were nothing. So that He can reveal His power through us. God has been in the business of using nothing.
 - b. Creation of World & Adam
 - c. Abraham, one old man made into the father of nations.
 - d. Gideon, a general of a squadron taking on a vast army.
 - e. David, a shepherd boy made into the most revered kings.
 - f. So that through us, through His glory, the World would be humbled.
3. Who we are now:
 - a. Righteous – Our standing before God.
 - b. Sanctified – Set apart to be used by God.
 - c. Redeemed – salvation because Jesus paid our debt.
 - d. Nothing we did. Nothing we can do. Everything Jesus did. We are all equal. Peter had no more spirit than you or I.

Notice something about proper pride? It takes the focus from us, from personalities we follow for the wrong reasons, and puts it on God. Following man just robs God of His Glory. It's not too different a lesson that we have in Mat 22, Greatest Commandment, Love God, love your neighbor, which then you find yourself in last place, rightly so. Jesus said in Mat 20, the first shall be last, and the last, first. Final question: Who do you glory in?