

Only Glorify Jesus

As humans, we almost can't help but make comparisons. But when comparing distracts us from what's true and important, then it becomes problematic and unhelpful. The Christians in Corinth struggled with a comparison problem. As Paul addressed their problem in 1 Corinthians, he offered a valuable perspective on power, authority, and leadership in the church, and a vital reminder that Christ is the foundation upon which we should build all things. Together, let's study Paul's guidance to the Corinthians to gain a better understanding of what it means to dwell in Christ and live and work as believers today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Do you think comparing ourselves to others typically makes us feel better or worse about ourselves? How often is this assessment by comparison accurate?
- How does comparing church leaders affect the church community?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Only Glorify Jesus](#)

READ [1 Corinthians 3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- The Corinthians put their leaders on a pedestal. Paul corrected their thinking by telling them the message is more important than the messenger. Can you think of modern-day examples of leaders being put on a pedestal?
- In the first segment, host Darrell Delaney said, “The point is that God is the one who makes growth happen, spiritually speaking, and we need to make sure that we keep God central to the message.” How does Paul's gardening metaphor in [1 Corinthians 3:5-9](#) emphasize his point that it is God who causes the growth?
- Jesus is the foundation, and Christians are God's temple. From the beginning to the end, God works through his people. How does God's gracious message that you are his sacred temple affect the way you live today?
- The smartest ideas in the world are foolish in God's sight because they always rely on human ability. True wisdom comes to the one who relies fully on the God who gives wisdom. What experiences in your life have reaffirmed this truth and taught you to rely on him?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Luke 10:38-42](#), [Matthew 7:24-29](#), [2 Corinthians 4](#), [Galatians 6:4-5](#)

CONCLUSION

We live in a celebrity-saturated culture today in America. We are told that if someone is famous, we should listen to them on a whole host of topics. This kind of thinking has found its way into our churches as well. Yet, Paul reminds us that it's not the fame of a preacher that makes the message worthy to be heard, but it is the power of God revealed in and through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. True Christian maturity comes when we can learn to accept that everything we have and everything we are is because of God. Close your time of reflection in prayer. Give thanks to God for Paul's humility and wise teaching and ask him to help you remember and keep focused on Jesus Christ, the center of the gospel message.

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