

September 20, 2020
I Corinthians 3:1-9
Identity Crisis

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. A carnal person is a believer who has a lack of interest in the Word and the absence of progress in spiritual growth. Beware of these indicators of carnality in your spiritual life. *Paige Patterson*
2. About rewards, God gives His rewards on the basis of labor, not success or results. The prophet Jeremiah is a perfect example. He was faithful to the Lord and his work is recorded for us to read. However, his work was not one of great success with revival breaking out. Yet, successful because he was faithful to do what the Lord had for him.
3. Christian workers are tools in the Redeemers hands. They are not the main thing, God is, He alone can do the spiritual work. But, God chooses to use human beings. No matter what a person's calling is in the Lord's work, it is important. One person's Christian calling is no more important than another's. Some callings, to men, seem more glamorous than others, but if God has called you to a thing, that thing is vitally important and is your calling. Serve Him with gladness!
4. To be a spiritual baby is a choice. Jealousy and strife are a result of "self-centeredness." Jealousy is an attitude, strife is an action. *John MacArthur*
5. The church usually thinks of worldliness in terms of actions such as drinking, dancing, lying, cheating, and stealing for example. In reality, today, worldliness goes much deeper than this. It manifests itself in things such as buying into the world's philosophies as truth, or buying into human wisdom, never considering God's wisdom that Paul just spoke of in chapter two of I Corinthians. Worldliness takes over in churches when the people look to the world's ways to solve spiritual problems. They turn to a human leader, or some popular trend instead of looking to God. Worldliness creeps into the church when a body of believers accepts the world's definitions of things as well. A good example of this is found in the definition of marriage. The world has distorted God's definition of marriage. Sadly, the church in many places and instances has bought into it. The church becomes worldly when it sets its "goals" to look like the world's "goals." "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14 ESV)

APPLICATION

The practical application for us today is to live our lives with dedication to the One True God. Serve the Lord with gladness, study diligently to know Him better. Go into it knowing that it takes hard work to be a good disciple. Go into it knowing that as believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit we have the best Teacher there is! Stay in the Word, examine your spiritual growth. We are constantly evaluated at work, at school, and even at play. We look over our finances with checks and balances. How much more should we pay attention to our personal spiritual development!