

October 4/5, 2008

**Study Questions**  
*Living Like Christians*  
**Spiritual or Fleshy?**  
**I Corinthians 3:1-23**  
Pastor Bryan Clark

**Opening Discussion**

1. How would you define the difference between the behavior of a spiritual infant and a mature believer?
2. What would define the difference between the motives of a spiritual infant and a mature believer?
3. In what ways do you see the value system of the world (performance-based) manifesting itself in believers today? Do you struggle with truly living out the realities of grace?

**Bible Study**

1. Review Paul's argument from 1:10-2:16. What are the bullet points?
2. Read 3:1-9. What is the difference between being "of flesh" (v.1) and "still fleshly (v.3)? What is the problem?
3. In 3:5-9 Paul destroys any possibility of Christian celebrity. What is his argument? Based on this argument why is it hypocritical for any believer to be prideful?
4. Read 3:10-15. If everything we accomplish as believers is "according to grace," what is the basis of rewards? Compare "suffer loss" with statements in 1:19, 2:6. Those who suffer loss are those who...? Those whose work "remains" are those who...?
5. What must be the essence of our rewards given the context in which these words in 3:12-15 appear? How do we process the concept of rewards without returning to a performance based value system? How can rewards be compatible with grace?
6. Read 3:16-18. How does God feel about those who bring destructive spiritual pride into His temple of grace?
7. Read 3:18-23. To become wise we must become foolish. What does this mean? According to this text do we end up with more or less if we quit comparing and competing and settle into the realities of grace?

## **Application**

1. Knowing what we now know about grace, why are we so prone to returning to an economy of performance?
2. Does your attitude and behavior reflect more a person who is spiritual or a person who is fleshy? Why?
3. What is the most significant truth you take away from this text? What practical thing can you do this week to make sure you remember and apply this truth?
4. What will be necessary for you to make sure your work today remains when it is “revealed by fire?”

