

September 20th, 2026

The Wrong Score Key
1 Corinthians 3:18-4:7

Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." ²¹So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

1 Corinthians 3:18–23 (NIV)

Spiritual maturity begins when we stop evaluating life by the _____ score key and start using _____.

OVERVIEW

- The deceptiveness of worldly thinking. (vv.18-20)
- We belong to Christ. (vv. 21-23)
- Leaders are servants, not celebrities. (4:1-5)
- Everything we have is from God's grace. (vv.6-7)

IMPLICATIONS

1. We must guard against _____ - _____.

Gen 3:5; Gal 6:3

2. We must resist measuring things by the _____.

_____. Matt 6:21; 33

3. We have everything we need in _____.

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

When you were growing up, what was something you used to think you knew everything about—but later realized you had a lot to learn? (It could be driving, parenting, your job, relationships, sports, etc.)

Paul warns, "Do not deceive yourselves" (3:18). Why do you think self-deception is often harder to recognize than deception from someone else? Have you ever had a "never mind" moment where God showed you that you were sincerely wrong about something?

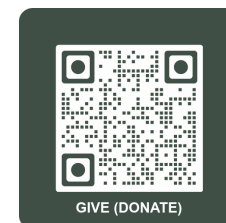
The message suggested that our hearts naturally adopt the world's "score key." Which of these are you most tempted to measure your life by—and why?

- Success or achievement
- Approval from others
- Comfort or security
- Influence or recognition
- Being right
- Something else?

How have you seen that shape your decisions or emotions?

Paul reminds the Corinthians, "You are of Christ" (3:23) and asks, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (4:7). How does remembering that your identity and everything you have are gifts from God change the way you view yourself and others.

What's one practical way you can begin using Jesus' "score key" this week instead of the world's? Is there an area where God may be inviting you to become more teachable, more faithful, or more secure in His grace rather than your performance?



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1 Corinthians 3:18–23 (NIV)

Spiritual maturity begins when we stop evaluating life by the world’s score key and start using Jesus’.

OVERVIEW

- The deceptiveness of worldly thinking. (vv.18-20)
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- Everything we have is from God’s grace. (vv.6-7)

IMPLICATIONS**1. We must guard against self-deception.**

Gen 3:5; Gal 6:3

2. We must resist measuring things by the world’s test key. Matt 6:21; 33**3. We have everything we need in Jesus.****TALK IT OVER**

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