

## THE FOUR CRISES OF A CHRISTIAN I CORINTHIANS 3:21-23

Crisis: A critical point or state of affairs. A crucial or decisive point or situation; a turning point. An unstable condition, as in political, social, or economic affairs, involving an impending abrupt or decisive change. An emotionally stressful event or traumatic change in a person's life. A point in a story or drama when a conflict reaches its highest tension and must be resolved.

Every Christian will, at some time or another, suffer from one or more of four crises. Unfortunately, some Christians suffer from all four. We, obviously don't have time to give extensive treatment to these in one message. So, we'll list them, define them, and we'll concentrate on the second one on the list.

- I. Identity Crisis: Most of us don't know who we are in-Christ and what that means to us (John 15:1-11)>Position=In-Christ, Possession=Christ In Me, Product=Fruit, Purpose=Abide in Christ).
- II. Inventory Crisis: Most of us don't know what we have in-Christ. We don't know how rich we are! So, we struggle with environmental and social issues, and points of temptation. **We'll explore this in this message.**
- III. Interpersonal Crisis: We don't know how to relate to one another. For example, how many have ever been led in a study of all the *one-another* passages in the Bible? There are 58 instances of that exact phrase. However, when we consider the synonyms of those words they are limitless in scripture. Some of them are one-way, from me to you, or from you to me. Some of them are reciprocal or mutual. So there are 3 divisions of interpersonal relations which we fail to consider and thus have constant interpersonal crises.
- IV. Involvement Crisis: The typical Christian does not know what God expects of him once he is saved. Now, the obvious beginning point should be the GREAT COMMISSION; however, we've turned that into a foreign mission statement and so, we have no involvement with it unless we feel like we are called. But you see, that doesn't have anything to do with a foreign mission statement. THE GREAT COMMISSION applies to EVERY moment of everyday and has nothing at all to do with world missions, except how world missions is impacted from what I DO TO FULFILL it!! Robert E. Coleman, in his book, *The Great Commission Lifestyle* says about the Great Commission, "Whatever does not contribute to its fulfillment is an exercise in futility." So, we have an involvement crisis.

**Hidden in the gospel is an often overlooked truth. Only rich people can afford to be Christians, because Christianity is very expensive.** The least of riches in life is money! The greatest of human riches, relationships, love, time, don't involve any money at all.

Every chapter in 1 Corinthians was written to address a problem. Chapters 1-4 were written to address the problem of division in the church. **There are four points to consider from this part of the passage:**

1. Background Problem – (vs 21) This must be in our awareness. The Corinthians were divided over preacher popularity (1 Cor 1:10-13). They were *boasting* in men. There are only 2 things in which the Christian is to *boast* (Jeremiah 9:23,24; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:8; 1 Cor 1:26-31).
2. Basic Proposition –( vs 21) "All things are yours" (1 Timothy 6:17; Romans 8:32) How many of us would ever think to answer the problem of church division in this manner? When a believer has an inventory crisis, every problem that believer ever has will arise from that inventory crisis. **IF** I don't know who I am, I have an identity crisis and every problem I ever have will be an identity problem and I will be vulnerable to anything. **IF** I don't know how much I'm worth in Christ, I am vulnerable to anything!! If I don't know what I have, Satan can have a field day with me!! **So**, we can see why we do such a poor job of re-presenting Christ sometimes. We don't know who we are, what we have or how much we are worth. If you stopped the average Christian on the street and asked him to explain to you who they are in Christ, they couldn't do it!!
3. Blessed Proof – Itemized list of our riches. In I Corinthians 3:22 Paul gives us an itemized list of eight things that are a token of what we have IN-CHRIST. It will show you how we are supposed to think. Let's name the four categories and then look at them individually.
  - a. All true communicators of the gospel are yours. **b.** The created world belongs to you (Gal 4; Col 2:3 Rom 8:32). **c.** All conditions of existence belong to you, whether life or death (John 14:6; 1 John 1:2; Psalm 23:4). **d.** All circumstances of time belong to you -things present or things to come (Rom 8:38,39).
4. Balancing Premise – This gives validity to all the rest. **You belong to Christ!** (1 Cor 3:16; Gal 3:13; 4:5; 1 Peter 1:18; 2 Cor 5:18,19)