

- ✚ Paul deals with their divisions first because those divisions threatened the very core of their existence. Divisiveness cannot communicate God's reconciling love. Pride and arrogance are as always at the root of any division. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:26, Paul reminds them of their humility, they were mostly simple folk. Mainly no name people that God called out of the Corinthian society. Corinth was full of prominent and wealthy, and powerful people, but that was not represented too well in the church.
  - ✚ Does God not like smart people or powerful or high born or influential? Then what is it that kept these people out of the church?, Luke 18:18-25. Do you see the problem with this guy? He's rich, influential, high born. It's not that God doesn't like the smart, powerful, or those born with a silver spoon; it's just that those things have a way of inoculating us against hearing His call.
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### **1. Are intelligence, power, nobility, etc. evil?**

- ✓ Isn't Jesus smart, powerful, of noble heritage? Thus, these things are not evil in and of themselves. It's not what they do to us, but what we do with them that makes them dangerous for us. In the Revelation, Jesus dictates the seven letters to seven different churches. Only two of the seven have perfect score cards. One was the church at Smyrna, Revelation 2:9, and the other was the church at Philadelphia, Revelation 3:8. Contrast these with a church about which Jesus had nothing good to say, Revelation 3:17.

### **2. What was true for the church at Corinth is by and large not true for us.**

- ✓ We largely are affluent, powerful, high born. We've got money, know how, standing and prestige and we have it in the top society in the world today. We need to be very careful, the reason why so few were called at Corinth with those credentials is because pride is the tendency of people like that/like us! Tendency to self-reliance instead of God-reliance; love of possessions and positions instead of love of God; Little felt need of God. It can be a real affliction, so deafened by the adoration of the world that we can't hear the voice of God.

### **3. How do we remedy such an affliction?**

- ✓ Make sure we are taking our medicine! Not taking their medicine was part of the reason why the Corinthian church was so sick. Luke 9:23, Jesus died to save us from Hell but not to save us from the cross! He died so that we could be glorified but not keep us from being crucified! There is a medicine that we need to be taking daily, denying ourselves and taking up crosses. Giving all, we are and all we have over to Him for His direction and desire. The cross was not only a past place of substitution, but current place of execution. Daily we need to execute our pride, agenda, boasting of man, self-reliance, love of money, status, and praise of men. If we don't take our medicine, those things will make us very sick. We can be so sick that, like the Laodicean church, we will not know when we are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

**It takes a crucified life to bring a crucified Savior before the eyes of the world.**

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