

- ↪ Paul makes an astounding statement, "all things belong to you." The church at Corinth was acting like they were living off of poor rations when they could have been feasting, they just didn't know what was really available to them. They were suffering from Spiritual malnutrition, as evidenced by their jealousy, divisiveness, and strife.
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1. One of the biggest problems for Christians throughout the ages has been Spiritual malnutrition.

- ✓ We don't know "Who's" we are, and we don't know what we have. Paul tells them that they are settling for so little, and then proceeds to inform them of what they really have. For instance, the church was divided by the phrase "I belong to...", Paul tells them that the facts are the exact opposite, Paul and the rest of these people all belonged to HIM! What is more important in the gift giving process? The gift or the one it is gifted to? These teachers were gifts from God to the church at Corinth... these "gifts" belonged to them not vice-versa. Paul refers to himself and the other leaders as "servants" and, consequently, the Corinthians believers were the heirs whom the servants served. Saying they were belonging to Paul or Apollos was like saying that they belonged to the maid or the butler or the grounds keeper. Paul calls himself and the other leaders "nothing," and now he tells them that these are simply possessions of the church not the other way around.

2. Paul makes a quantum leap in 1st Corinthians 3:22, the world belongs to us.

- ✓ "the meek shall inherit?," "The world." We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Jesus. What do they own? What do we stand to inherit from them? The devil tempts us with promises of great gain if we will only bow to his wishes, the fact is we can't gain anything. We are children of the King! We are not paupers, we are not beggars; we are not here looking for handouts, we are here giving things away to a world that is in the poor house.

3. Paul makes another quantum leap in 1st Corinthians 3:22, life and death are ours.

- ✓ Life is ours, how do we know this? Because the Author of life Himself has given it to us. Life is ours; we hold clear title! Death is also ours; death is called the last enemy that Jesus has defeated; Jesus tells us that He holds the keys to it. Since Jesus, our Lord, holds the keys to it, death is just a vehicle that we ride in into the presence of God. We are on a cruise and the final destination is the presence of God, the ship we are cruising on is God's and, thus, ours. We, out of ignorance of what's really going on, settle for the cheap accommodations and don't really know what's been paid for. Paul adds "things present" and "things to come" in case we miss his meaning. Romans 8:32, we are not to be moping around like paupers, like we don't have access and authority.

1st Corinthians 3:23, there was an exchange on the cross, Jesus took what was ours and exchanged it for what was His. Our loneliness, our guilt, shame, fear, our death in exchange for what was HIS. How much of our stuff did Jesus take? All? How much of His stuff did He give? If we believe in the completeness of the one, why can't we believe and receive the completeness of the other?
