**Sermon Title: The Folly of the Church in a Christ-less Culture**

**Sermon Text: I Corinthians 4:6-13**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to an understanding of sinful pride vs. biblical humility.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 aspects of the folly of pride, when contrasted with biblical humility.**

**Introduction:**  Paul is making a contrast of the sin of human based conceit with the example of spirit driven biblical humility.

**I. The church today needs to learn the folly of pride. V.6**

**II. The church today needs to learn the folly of possessions. V.7**

**III. The church today needs to learn the folly of position. Vv.8-13**

**I. The church today needs to learn the folly of pride. V.6**

A. The **pictures** of humility. V.6a

1. Farmers (**I Corinthians 3:6-9**)

2. Builders (**I Corinthians 3:10-15**)

3. Servants (**I Corinthians 4:1-5**)

**Matthew 23:12** "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

**Philippians 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

**James 4:10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

**1 Peter 5:5** Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

B. The **poison** of arrogance. V.6b

Arrogance is the problem. Arrogant (phusiod) literally means to “puff up” KJV “inflate, blow up.” This term indicates pride is destructive.

**1 Corinthians 4:18-19** Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. **19** But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.

**1 Corinthians 5:2** And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

**1 Corinthians 8:1** Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

**1 Corinthians 13:4** Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

**2 Corinthians 12:20** For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and *that* I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest *there be* contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

The meaning and message of pride basically is “I’m for me.”

[**John MacArthur Study Bible notes, 1 Corinthians, p.1734**]

God’s servants are to be respected and honored within the confines of Scripture.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12** And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

**1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

**Hebrews 13:7** Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct.

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

**II. The church today needs to learn the folly of possessions. V.7**

A closely related sin to pride is boasting!. “Pride must brag; but is as dangerous and divisive as arrogance.” [**John MacArthur Commentary, I Corinthians, p.108**]

**Job 1:21** And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

**James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

**III. The church today needs to learn the folly of position. Vv.8-13**

A. Humility is demonstrated when we are **misinterpreted**. Vv.8-9 (**Philippians 2:5-6**)

**Acts 20:19** "serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;

**Ephesians 3:8** To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

**2 Corinthians 3:5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God,

B. Humility is demonstrated when we are **misunderstood**. Vv.10-12a

The apostles and early pastors lived at the lowest level of their society. Yet the members thought of themselves as kings. (**V.8**) We are suffering slaves!

The apostles often did manual labor which Greeks and some in the Corinthian Church considered beneath their pride and dignity, that’s for slaves.

**1 Thessalonians 2:9** For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

**2 Timothy 3:12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

C. Humility is demonstrated when we are **mistreated**. Vv.12b-13

The scum and dregs scraped from a dirty dish or garbage pot, used figuratively of the lowest most degraded criminals who were often sacrificed in pagan ceremonies.