

## 1 Corinthians 2:6-3:23 Strong Body Odor vs Sweet Perfume

I have spent a lot of time traveling for ministry in Russia – and Eastern Europe

A) One of the interesting things about those places at least back in the day – was – No deodorant

B) I don't know if it was just not available or they didn't believe in it

C) But you have not lived – until you could get on a subway – pit in your face – 10 minutes of death

D) Or even today – Some people are really into garlic – eat tons – pills – seep out of their pores

1) Hug or standing close – OH MY!

But the opposite is true – You ladies – touchy than guys – hug – sweet perfume – what is that.

A) My grandson right after a bath – smells so good.

B) I think the same thing can be true of the church

C) Sometimes – gives off the sweet fragrance of Jesus

1) Lean in – WONDERFUL – INVITING

D) Other times it reeks of the horrible stench of human flesh – Body Odor

E) That was the case in Corinth – Reeking

The Corinthians are behaving like their worldly counter parts

A) By comparing and choosing teachers the way culture did with Philosophers

B) The culture around them just like we tend to do – was divided by philosophies and philosophers

C) The Church had divided over their teachers and leaders – saying – I am of Paul, Apollos, Peter – Jesus only crowd

D) Result – Division – Schismata – tear or to rend – the body of Christ – the bride of Christ was being torn apart

Paul writes to correct this mindset and spends the first 4 chapters dealing with the issue. – That is how serious it is.

A) Proverbs 6 – 6 things the Lord hates -7 are an abomination – and on that list is this: **one who sows discord among the brethren.**

B) Paul begins his Instruction by saying in v.13 **Is Christ Divided? –**

1) Rhetorical question – the answer is no

C) Paul is going to explain in the following chapters – 1) We are all working on the same team – same goals – different functions – methods.

I see the same thing happening in the church today

A) We become divided because we don't have the wisdom to distinguish between – different and wrong.

B) We see a different take on an issue – or a different approach to ministry –

1) Instead of thinking different – we think **WRONG**

C) **OR** – my take is better – my method is better – theirs is wrong

D) Some in Calvary Chapel guilty – Expository teaching – Topical is wrong!

Jon Courson – Never tear down a tree that is bearing fruit!

Paul wants the Corinthian believers and us to see the foolishness of such thinking.-

A) Correct that thinking by giving them the following insights:

- #1 The power is in the message of the gospel – not the messenger 1:18-2:5
- #2 We need the mindset of Christ not the mindset of the world 2:6-3:4
- #3 We are all working together – same team, same goals – 3:5-18
- #4 We are all to be faithful stewards and servants of what the Lord has entrusted to us. Ch 4:1-18

B) We looked at the first one – last time #1 The power is in the message of the gospel – not the

**messenger** <sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**C)Dr. Henry Ironside preaching at an outdoor meeting – Afterwards a well-dressed very distinguished looking man came up to him – handed Ironside his card**

**Ironside looked at the name and immediately recognized it – The man was a well-known agnostic**

**The man traveled around speaking to large crowds – about agnosticism – ridiculing the Bible**

**He challenged Ironside to a debate – Ironside went back to the podium to tell the crowd of the challenge**

**He said I would love to accept the challenge on one condition – If this man can bring one man whose life has been destroyed by alcohol and wild living – who attended his lecture and his life was changed**

**And if he can bring one woman whose life was destroyed by prostitution and sexual immorality Whose life was transformed after attending his lecture about Agnosticism –**

**Then Ironside said – I will bring 100 men..... 100 women..... Lives that have been completely changed and transformed by the power of the gospel**

**The man walked away without saying a word – because he knew he could bring no one**

**The Philosophies of this world cannot transform a persons heart – Change – inside on the outside**

**A)So the first thing that Paul wants them to see is – There is power in the gospel message**

**B)But the power is in the message of the gospel– not the messenger 1:18-2:5**

**I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. – Romans 1:16**

**Ch 2:1-5 Paul used himself as an example – when I came to you I didn't come with persuasive speech –**

**A)Paul said – I wasn't try to appear to be something – come across as some powerful and persuasive orator**

**B)The Power is in the Message – preached – So <sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**

**C)Chapter 2:6 His second argument - #2 We need the mindset of Christ not the mindset of the world 2:6-3:4**

**6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, (Philosophies) nor of the rulers of this age, (rulers = leaders – leading philosophers) who are coming to nothing.(leaders come and go) <sup>7</sup> But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, (mystery is musterion – not like spy mystery -who done it – Musterion = something once hidden not has been revealed)**

**What is the mystery that was hidden that has now been revealed?**

**A)God would send his son from heaven – born of a virgin – become a man –**

**B)REDEEM – save mankind – and to unite Jew and Gentile -ONE BODY -FAMILY –**

**C)Colossians – The wall of division broken down – 1)1,000's of years of hostility between the two groups – ONE IN JESUS CHRIST -**

**D)ANSWER TO OUR RACE PROBLEMS – TODAY!**

**<sup>7</sup> But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,<sup>8</sup> which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”**

**V.9 Often gets quoted in speaking about heaven** – that is true – Paul will say later on 2 Corinthians 12:9 – He was taken up into heaven – human words could not describe –

So what is saying v.9 is true about heaven **Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.**”

**However the context here is in reference to the power of the gospel**

**A)We could never fully comprehend the full magnitude of the gospel and all that it entails for us**

**B)Redeemed us from power and the penalty of sin – Covers our past –**

**1)Ensures our future destiny –**

**2)Sufficient for everything in between - Power of the gospel to help us live for Jesus**

**C)Our whole lives we are learning and growing of the power of the gospel. –**

**1)that is the power of the mystery of the gospel that is being revealed to us.**

**10 But God has revealed them to us** (the apostles who wrote inspired scripture – passed on to us) –

**10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? (only you know what is in your heart- I don't know your motives – nor you mind)**

**LISTEN - Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, **not** the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might know** the things that have been freely given to us by God.**

**13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which **the Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

**NO ONE KNOWS THE SPIRIT OF A MAN – unless he reveals it –**

**A)No one knows the things of God except the spirit of God**

**B)BUT GOOD NEWS – GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT!**

**C)Received a new spirit – Holy Spirit inside of our hearts – God's spirit – teaches us**

**1)Leads us – in spiritual matters**

Therein lies a problem: **14 But the natural man** (unregenerate man) **does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.**

**Have you ever tried to talk to an unbeliever about the things of the Lord –**

**A)they just look at you with a blank stare? –**

**B)Not getting it – Why? – the things of the spirit are spiritually discerned – you have to be spiritually alive to discern**

**C)Some of you tried to read the Bible prior to coming to faith – didn't get anything out of it – “I tried reading the Bible – did nothing for me” –**

**D)Spiritual book – for people who are spiritually alive**

Paul added this insight in 2 Corinthians 4:4 **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe.** Minds blinded

**Pray that the blinders would be lifted. – Amazing when you see that happen.**

**A)Remember once when I was a youth Pastor – this 15 year old girl from our youth group had gotten in trouble – shoplifting or something – her parents brought her to come and see me**

**B)This is a girl from a Christian home – Christian parents – she is at youth group every Sunday.**

**1)Went to camps – but she was not born again.**

**C)Her eyes/mind were blinded –**

I met with her – several times – we were talking about some of the most basic things of the faith – blank stare –

**Listen – I know the difference between a kid who is just being rebellious –**

**A)I did YM for 10 yrs and saw that attitude a lot**

B)She was genuinely listening – but she wasn't comprehending things that I have seen 10 yr olds grasp

C)I hate to admit this – but I literally found myself wondering – is she stupid?

1)Learning problem? - What is up?

**Week 3 – it all changed – the Blinders lifted – light came on –**

A)She understood – She genuinely gave her heart to Jesus - EVERYTHING CHANGED

B)Her whole demeanor changed – she was transformed –

1)you could even see it in her countenance – brighter

C)She is in Bible studies taking notes – she is impacting her friends

D)This radical transformation – Blinders were lifted!

1)See that happen 100's of times but hers was definitely the most demonstrative

16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ. (This is a key idea – why should we not get caught up in division –

**ANSWER - We have a whole new MINDSET – we have been given the mind of Christ.**

But The problem in Corinth is they had reverted back to their worldly mindset – when we look at life through the lens of the world – Disaster happens – Divisions happen

**Ch.3** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal,(carnal – fleshly - worldly) as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal.

**Now this is interesting to me – there is a popular Bible teacher – who says there is no such thing as a carnal Christian.**

A)And yet Paul tells the church in Corinth that they are Carnal – fleshly minded

B)But that is after he said this of them in Ch 1 - turn

**Ch.1**

v. 4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be blameless* in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C)I don't think you can get any more saved than that? –**

- v.9 Called into the fellowship of Jesus
- V.4 Recipients of Grace
- v.5 Enriched in everything – utterance and knowledge
- V.6 His testimony confirmed in them
- V.7 not lacking in the gifts of the Holy Spirit

D)They are radically saved! **And yet** Paul says their behavior –

1)Key word Behavior – Carnal = of the flesh – worldly

E)They were acting like the natural men and women around them who did not know JESUS

1)EVIDENCE OF IT - V.3B - For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and **behaving like mere men**? 4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?

**So Carnality expresses itself in envy, strife and divisions – often masquerading as being spiritual**

A)Need to pray about this –

B)I have a concern – instead of talking with the leader – they talked to someone else – spreads

1)Builds momentum – if enough of us feel this way we can't be wrong can we? – PROTEST

C)What would have happened – went to Apollos?

**D)I am guessing Apollos would have put them in their place – hope so – Paul did**

E) Paul understood something -

<sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Roman 8:6

A) Carnally minded is death – brings destruction – tears things up – wrecks lives and churches

B) So Carnality expresses itself in envy, strife and divisions

C) Too be honest – this has been my greatest struggle as a Pastor – is watching- people I have known for years – who know Jesus

1) Act like someone who doesn't know Jesus – gossip – behind other people's backs

D) Hold Grudges – take advantage of – form clichés – bad mouth – all signs of Carnality – STINKS

1) FOUL ODOR OF B.O

Listen we have a tendency to think of Carnality in forms of things like Sexual immorality and drunkenness – “biggies”

A) Paul described these as the works of the Flesh – or me might say Carnal man or woman – Galatians 5

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like;. Galatians 5:19-21

READ AGAIN – FOCUS MIDDLE PART

When Christians get disconnected from Jesus and start looking at things from the perspective of the natural man (a person who doesn't know Jesus)

A) DIVISION – Dissensions – outburst of wrath selfish ambition ARE the result

B) That is what was happening in Corinth – repeated 10's of thousands of times in Churches around the world –

C) So Paul is instructed the Corinthians that Jesus is not Divided –

1) The power for transformation is in the message not the messenger

D) They need to get back to having the MINDSET OF JESUS and not the competitive mindset of the World

#3 We are all working together – same team, same goals – 3:5-18

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Now Paul uses some interesting words here to describe himself and Apollos

A) Ministers is servants - He uses low status terms to describe Apollos

B) Corinth was an elitist Roman colony that despised manual laborers,

1) and yet Paul designates both Apollos and himself as servants and gardeners with different duties.

C) They were on the same team working for the same goal – spread the gospel – see people saved – grow in Jesus

Paul says I planted the first seed of the gospel – Apollos came later and watered it – But God gave the increase

7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

A) Now at the end of v.8 he introduces this thought that he is going to get into more in Chapter 4 – Stewards – rewarded for our faithful service

B) But here is emphasis is on the fact that they are working together.

C) All the churches -working together –

D) When I hear of something GREAT that God did in another Church –

1) I love to text that pastor or call – and rejoice with them

**E)We are all in this together – Paul continues on that vein**

9 For we are God's fellow workers; **you are God's field**, you are **God's building**. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it.

**Paul laid the foundation of the Gospel – Preaching Jesus and him Crucified –**

**A)Apollos and others came along and built on that foundation –**

**B)Jesus is the foundation of our faith – he is the cornerstone –**

**C)Knowing who he is – God in Human Flesh – Redeemer – Risen Lord –**

**1)only way to be saved – Head of the church –**

**2)essential doctrine – FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

The true church of Jesus Christ is not built upon, "Let's get together and make something happen politically," or, "Let's launch a moral crusade," or, "Let's be socially responsible." It's based upon Jesus Christ—our Hero, our Savior, our Friend, our coming King. - Courson

**Then we build upon it – how we build is important**

But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**A)Now gold silver and precious stones are elements that withstand the fire - - refined by the fire**

**B)Whereas wood hay and straw are burned up by the fire – nothing left**

**C)Paul is telling us here that there are materials that we can build with that do not withstand the fire**

**Most Commentators believe Paul is speaking here about our motives**

**A)If our Motive is to glorify God – see people grow in God - - good materials that will withstand the fire.**

**B)But if our motives are to bring attention to ourselves –**

1) if our motives to gain popularity – Wood hay and stubble – burned

**C)We are saved – but there is no eternal reward for our work**

**James 3:1 Teachers/Pastors – receive a stricter Judgment**

**So I do agree that this can refer to motives – but I also think – it refers to materials**

**A)What are we trying to build our ministry with. - Cool innovative marketing techniques?**

**B)Things that appeal to peoples fleshly tendencies – in order to attract more people - BIG isn't always the sign of health**

**C)I personally believe that we should be focused on growing big people in the Lord –**

**1)rather than growing a big church.**

**D)OUR Focus on helping people grow in the Lord and let the Lord add to the Church –**

**1)Healthy sheep beget sheep.**

**So the materials we build with are Bible study –**

**A)Discipleship – building community – helping people find their identity in Jesus**

**Aa)Helping people grow in their worship of Jesus.**

**B)Those are the things that last –**

**C)At this point – Paul says something really strong here**

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (Now in chapter 6 he is going to come back to his analogy of

this on an individual basis – your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit –

but here is talking in terms of the COLLECTIVE CHURCH) YOU ARE – ALL OF US TOGETHER - you are the temple of God – THEREFORE 17 If anyone defiles (Context of Division) the temple of God, God will destroy him. (SERIOUS?) For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

### **CLOSES another exhortation to Avoid Worldly Wisdom**

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. (the way up is down – the way to wisdom is humility) 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”; 20 and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” 21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. 23 And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

**Paul tells us something about carnality here that I think we need to hear.**

A)He’s already said this, carnality expresses itself through envy, strife and division.

B)It is about arguing and becoming enraged towards people over things that are not of eternal value.

C)But now here he tells us something else about carnality.

**Carnality is a gross limitation to what is yours in Christ.**

**Twice Paul says - All things are yours.**

A)Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life, death, things present, things to come it’s all yours!

B)Did you catch that - You are rich. You have it all- you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s.

1)Co-heirs with Jesus -

C)Are you kidding me? It’s too much!

**This is what “GRACE” really looks like.**

A)In Christ you get it all- everything you think you missed out on you get.

B)Everything you think would have added value to your life but didn’t happen you get.

**C)Do you feel disappointed with this life?**

1)You get life in the end!!! All of it.

**Do you feel like death robbed you of people? You get that too- death will be swallowed up.**

A)Are you missing out on the present? You get that!

B)and are you afraid of your future? Don’t be- you get it all!

C)Why Paul said in Colossians 3:1 Set your minds on the things above – not this earth – but above where Christ is seated –

D)Heavenly mindset not earthly

**Carnality is earthly -**

A)Carnality is a gross limitation to what is yours in Christ.

B)Carnality is the ultimate expression of settling for less than God’s best in your life.

C)It is sort of like being more interested in the manure -than the horse.

1)Little kids does -

**Paul wants us to understand that the whole Bible is shouting out- there’s more.**

A)Don’t settle – there is more

B)Paul – I press on – reaching forward – looking for more

C)This is about discovery – who I am in Jesus

D)Oh lets have that heart – the result will be sweet fragrance of Jesus

**End with Mary – worship –**

A)Not earthly focused – Dowry

B)Broke – feet – hair

C)Fragrance filled the house – wherever Mary went – smelled like Jesus