

REVIEW

A few key quotes and ideas to reflect on:

- Paul loved this church, and spent a lot of time helping them grow in their relationship with Christ – which necessarily meant a lot of learning/unlearning things they thought about God (His character, ideas). The Corinthian Culture was a mix of secular and different religions, and the people were products of their culture (just like us); thus Paul had a delicate balance to keep between truth/love.
- A Godward compass is always moved by truth and love. One is never traded off for the other – they work in tandem (sounds like the greatest commandment!). How do we make decisions in our culture/lives? Do we start with God’s wisdom, or do we lean solely on our own? Do we insist on integrity/sincerity or do ends justify means? Do we work for others’ joy/faith/firmness, or do we seek only our own?
- **What God has done for us** (promised made and promises kept in the Gospel) is meant to be an ongoing directional for us, but so is **what God has done in us**. And here Paul touches on but a few of those things: Paul says that it is God who makes us “STAND FIRM” (strengthen/establish). How?
 - God has **“anointed”** us: In the OT leaders are “anointed” with oil as they embark on a special life with God (Aaron, David, Elisha, Jesus). In the NT God “anoints” the Church with the Holy Spirit for their life/purpose with Him.
 - God has **“sealed”** us: Seals were a common part of ancient culture – an image pressed into clay to leave a lasting mark: signifying various things (authority, security, authenticity – and ownership!). As a Christian, God puts his mark of ownership upon/in you.
 - **God has “made a deposit” in us**: Also common in ancient culture (like today) is the idea of a down-payment, which ensures that the item will be claimed later. As a Christian, God has put money down on you! He’ll make good on making you his own!

ASK:

- **Now ask just a few simple questions:**
 - **Read 1:21-22 again.** Think through what Paul is saying and put it in your own words.
 - Paul is saying that there are three ways in which God makes us stand firm in Christ: by setting us aside for a specific purpose (anointed); saying “You’re mine” (setting his seal on us), and putting his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit (of the promise of the gospel). **Which of those three comforts you most? Which challenges you?**
 - **A Godward compass is always moved by truth and love. One is never traded off for the other – they work in tandem (sounds like the greatest commandment!).** How does the culture/your own personal preferences influence your decisions? Do you find yourself starting with God’s wisdom, or leaning solely on your own?
 - **What has been driving your decisions/directions/affections lately?**

PREVIEW Next week we will be in 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. Spend some time together reading this.

Read your selected passage out loud (if studying in a group, all but one person should keep their Bibles closed for now). **Read slowly.** Line by line if you can. **Read as if for the first time.**

ASK (a guide for this is on the next page)

- **What does it say?** (“Don’t be showy....don’t be wordy”)
- **What do you see?** (picture the scene, the people. What stands out?)
- **What happens next?** Guess! (say, “I wonder...)
- **What do you hear?** (What word comes to mind after reading? Spend some time in silent prayer before answering. *Why do you think God included this here in the Story?*).

- **What do you want to do?** (as a result of what Jesus has done)

PRAY TOGETHER

Worship God for who He is (His attributes revealed in these passages)

Confess the sinful emotions, attitudes, and behaviors that result when we forget who He is

Thank God for what He has done in Christ and your life

Ask God to transform you and to help you apply His word today.

LECTIO VISIO

Christians believe in God's Word and take him at his Word. Yet 21st century Christians have a difficult time seeing God's Word the same way God's people have for centuries: **visually**. That's what this method of Scripture reading is designed to do: help you see the text.

3 INGREDIENTS

3 candles, or a 3 wick candle

1 Passage (preferably narrative, 5-10 verses)

12 or fewer people (Christians or non-Christians)

10 COMMANDMENTS OF LECTIO VISIO

1. No prep! (Lead by asking)
2. Pray simple prayers (tsp prayers: Thank you, Sorry, Please)
3. Shut your Bibles (yup, you read that correctly. Don't worry.)
4. Open your eyes (senses) and picture the scene. Try to get down in the dust of the story.
5. Direct the Film (you as the leader help the biblical scene come alive for those you're studying with)
6. No peeking ahead (1 verse at a time)
7. No rabbit trails (stick to what the text says, not "I feels")
8. Keep telling the story (instead of explaining, WONDER)
9. Keep silence
10. Lead by asking the 5Qs
11. Repeat #2 TSP.

THE 5 QUESTIONS

1. What did it say?
2. What do you see?
3. What happens next? (Guess)
4. What do you hear? (Then/Now)
5. What do you want to do?

A COUPLE EXTRA TIPS FOR LEADERS

Mirror the group. Repeat back what is said and direct them back to the story if things get off track.

Lead Strong. God is actually the one leading the discussion by his Word. Take courage. Have fun. Encourage a bit of playfulness.

Take Notes Here (how did it go? what applications did people give that you can follow up on next week?)