

# 1 CORINTHIANS

The Gospel  
in Community

WHEN FAITH AND LIFE COLLIDE

## Study 4

### THE GOSPEL AND SELF ESTEEM

I Corinthians 3:18-4:21



# DIVISION IN CHURCH



# Spiritual immaturity v 1-4





# Wrong focus in church growth v 5-22



Focus on  
Leaders



Building on the  
wrong foundation



Misunderstanding  
the vision of the  
church



# CONCLUSION

- All are Christ's
- The Apostle and the Church



1 Corinthians 3:18-23 (ESV) Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'" 21 So 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 the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.















A man with a dark beard and mustache, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, stands with his arms crossed against a light gray background. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

# Deception

## God's Wisdom

19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God.

For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness"



# ELIPHAZ

Job 5:12-13 (ESV) He frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success.

13 He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are brought to a quick end.







# ONE CHILD POLICY

By 2050 ,500 million Chinese aged 60 and over, compared with 200 million today.

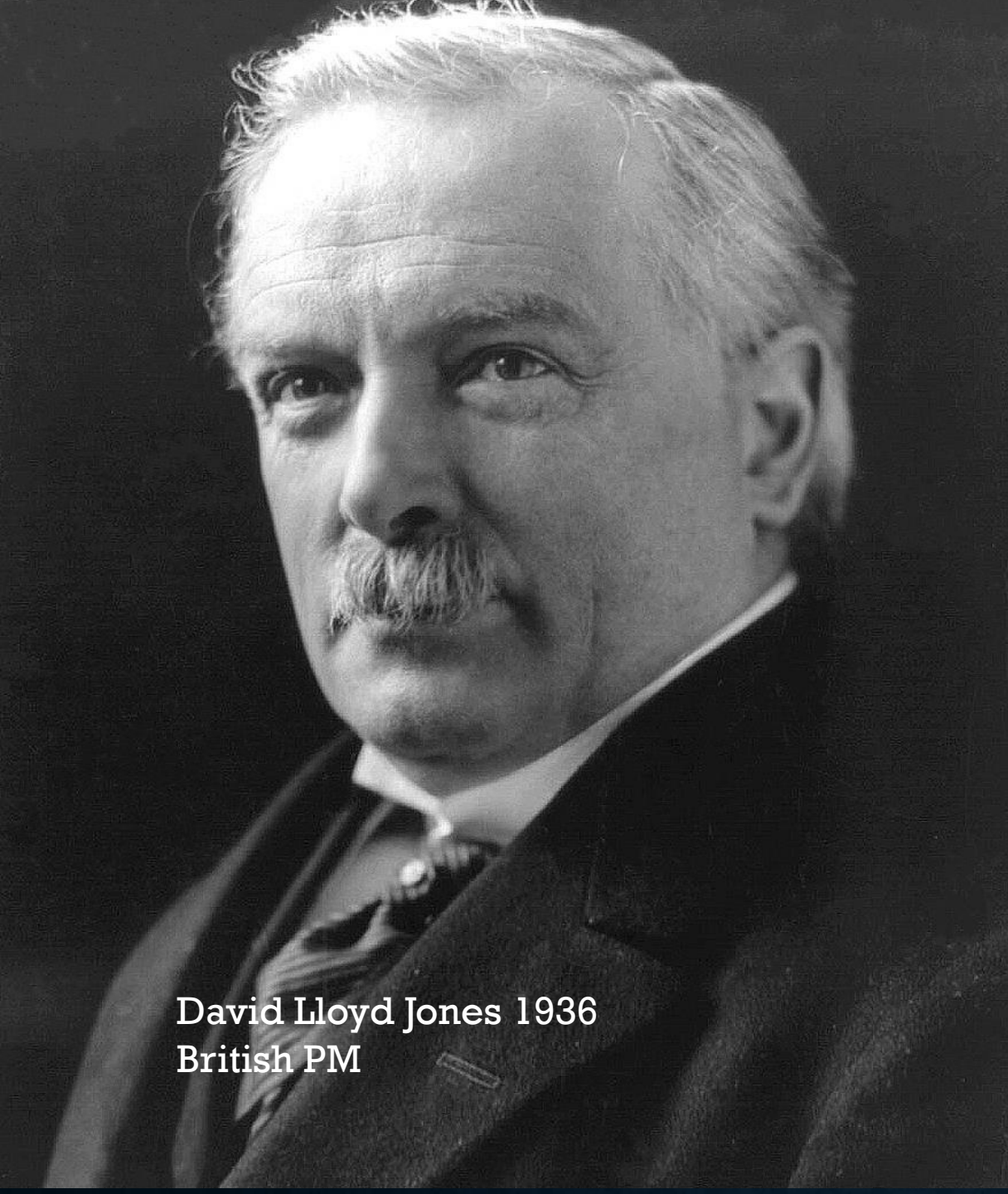




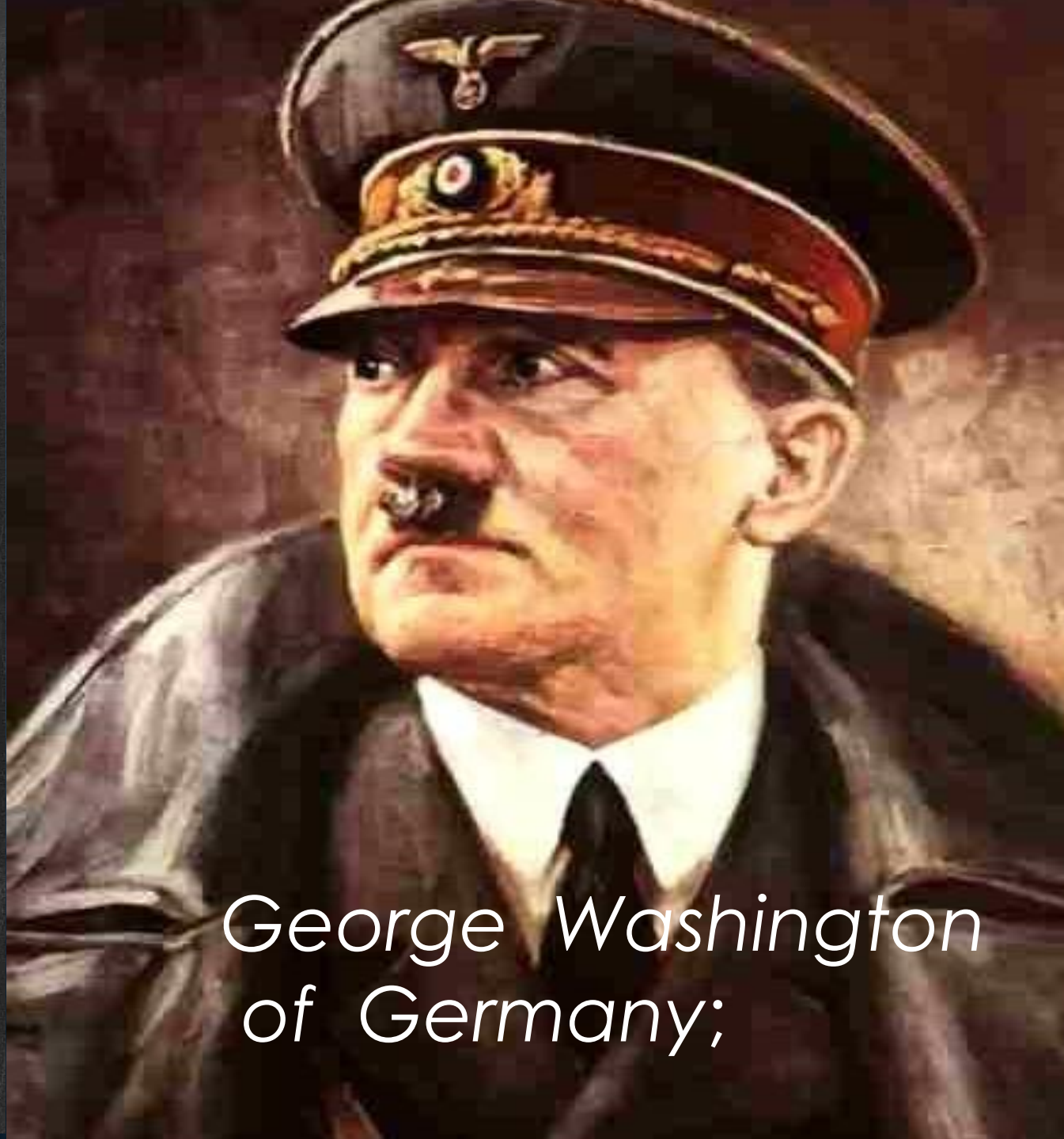
ONE OF THE GREATEST STATESMEN  
OF OUR TIME;







David Lloyd Jones 1936  
British PM



George Washington  
of Germany;



A color photograph of George Bernard Shaw, an elderly man with a full white beard and hair. He is looking down and to the left, with his right hand resting against his chin in a thoughtful pose. The background is a plain, light blue-grey color.

George Bernard Shaw

A black and white portrait of Joseph Stalin, a man with a prominent mustache and slicked-back hair. He is wearing a dark military-style uniform with epaulettes and a high collar. The background is a solid, vibrant red color.

**No malice**



## SELF ESTEEM-FUTILE

20 and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” 21 So let no one boast in men



## SOREN KIERKEGAARD



*It is the normal state of the human heart is to build itself around something besides God. Spiritual pride is the illusion that you are competent to run your own life ,achieve your own sense of self worth and find a purpose big enough to give you meaning in life without God*





## CS LEWIS

Pride is something that is essentially competitive. Pride gets no pleasure out of having something only having more of it than the next person



A close-up photograph of Donald Trump, dressed in a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He is pointing his right index finger upwards and has a confident, slightly smug expression on his face. The background is a solid blue color. The text 'I ALONE' is at the top and 'CAN FIX IT!' is at the bottom, both in white, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline.

**I ALONE**

**CAN FIX IT!**









**MYSELF**  
EVALUATION  
**FANTASTIC**

BAD

AVERAGE

NICE

FANTASTIC



# The Sydney Morning Herald

Simon Smart 15/4/17

A generation brought up on an endless diet of their own specialness appears to be struggling with the hard truth that most of us are just ordinary. ...epidemic levels of mental health issues, with 70 per cent of students reporting high to very high levels of psychological distress.

...The self-esteem movement says you can find everything you need from within yourself. Decades of this programming have left many feeling deeply inadequate



# SELF-ESTEEM MOVEMENT SPUN THE FANTASY THAT QUESTIONS OUR WORTH

But despite the veneer of psychology, the core philosophical problem remains: how can the self be deemed 'worthy' simply because it asserts it to be so? On what basis? When you don't know what you are for, it can be hard to believe your own propaganda about what you are *worth*. And why should you?

*Glynn Harrison is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry in the University of Bristol, UK*





# ROBERT SHULLER

I don't think that anything has been done in the name of Christ and under the banner of Christianity that has proven more destructive to human personality, and hence counterproductive to the evangelistic enterprise, than the unchristian, uncouth strategy of attempting to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition.





# RAY S. ANDERSON

If our sin is viewed as causing the death of Jesus on the cross, then we ourselves become victims of a 'psychological battering' produced by the cross. When I am led to feel that the pain and torment of Jesus death is due to my sin, I inflict upon myself spiritual and psychological torment.

*The Gospel According to Judas*, (Colorado Springs, Helmer and Howard, 1991), 99.



# CONCLUSION

1 Corinthians 3:20-21 (ESV) and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” 21  
So let no one boast in men.



## WHAT WE REALLY NEED

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 For all things are yours,  
22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the  
world or life or death or the present or the  
future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's,  
and Christ is God's.



All things  
are yours



Paul



Apollos



Cephas

Christ



World  
Life or Death  
Present or future



# TYRANNIES OF HUMAN EXISTENCE



World

Life

Present

Death

Future



# HOW IS JESUS RULING?

## Head

Ephesians 1:22-23 (ESV) And he put to all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



Common grace

Control of history

Benefits



All things in the world

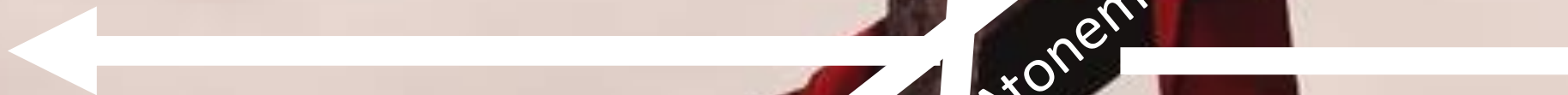


Church



# THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Incarnation/upside-down



Atonement/inside-out





# **HOW WE REGARD LEADERS**

The *A*postle and the Church



1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (ESV) This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2  
Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.



Under rowers-huperetes



House manager – oiko-nomos





Under rower..chained

Compulsion  
Totally Unseen







House Steward

Accountability

Delegated Authority



**..mysteries of God.  
..Gospel**



Picture drives behaviour





# FIND SELF ESTEEM IN GOD

- 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court **He rejects low self esteem based on the judgment of others**
- . In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself but I am not thereby acquitted. **Correct esteem God..esteem** **He rejects high self esteem based on self judgment**
- It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.



“The Christian self image is never an end in itself. It is always a means to the end of living for God, for others, and for the preservation and development of God’s creation. It leads us outside ourselves. It delivers us from the preoccupation with ourselves and releases us so that we may happily serve God and others”

*Anthony A. Hoekema, Created in God’s Image (Grand Rapids, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986), 111.*



# ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS WHO EVER LIVED

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (ESV) The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom

I am the foremost.

: Sees his own sin but does not connect it to his self worth or identity

16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.





It is the Lord who judges me.<sup>5</sup> Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.





Too tough

Too unpredictable

Too soft



It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes,

who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.



**PERFORMANCE VS  
EXPERIMENTATION**





“The Christian self image is never an end in itself. It is always a means to the end of living for God, for others, and for the preservation and development of God’s creation. It leads us outside ourselves. It delivers us from the preoccupation with ourselves and releases us so that we may happily serve God and others”

*Anthony A. Hoekema, Created in God’s Image (Grand Rapids, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986), 111.*



Regulated by revelation –being fool

1 Corinthians 4:6-7 (ESV) I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to be puffed up, as things written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. 7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?



## CRITICISM OF THEIR WORLDLY ATTITUDES

1 Corinthians 4:8 (ESV) *Already you have all you want!  
Already you have become rich! Without us you have  
become kings! And would that you did reign, so that  
we might share the rule with you!*



**TENSION**

**OVER REALIZED ESCHATOLOGY**

Kingdom of God  
consummated



# SARCASM

## Corinthians

## Apostles

You have all you want (v. 8)

We go hungry and thirsty (v. 11)

You have become rich (v. 8)

We are in rags (v. 11)

You have become kings (v. 8)

We are brutally treated and homeless and work hard (v. 11)

You are so wise in Christ (v. 10)

We have become fools for Christ (v. 10)

You are strong (v. 10)

We are weak (v. 10)

You are honored (v. 10)

We are dishonored (v. 10)



## WORLDLY WISDOM

Superspiritual, sophisticated, taking  
worlds standards

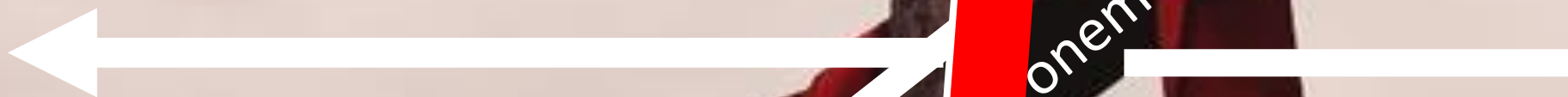


Lowly, unimpressive, unsophisticated  
embarrassing message of cross  
True power of God



# THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Apostles are first not because of rank but because of cruciform life



Incarnation/upside-down



Conement/inside-out



# MAJOR PROPHET SHEPHERD BUSHURI





## **APPEAL TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP**

1 Corinthians 4:14-17 (ESV) I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

1 Corinthians 4:18-21 (ESV) Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. 21 What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?



1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV) For the kingdom of  
God does not consist in talk but in power.