

# Outline: “We Belong to Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:16–23)

June 29, 2025 – Worship

## Introduction: Self-Deception and the Truth about the Church

- Self-deception means thinking you’re right when you’re actually wrong.
- The Corinthian church also struggled with self-deception.
- What truth should the church fix its eyes on?

## Context: From Personal Life to the Church

- Last week, we learned about “a rewarded life” — the responsibility of each believer.
  - This week, the focus is on the church as the gathered people of Christ.
- 

## 1. The Church is God’s Temple – Do Not Destroy It (vv.16–17)

- v16: Paul speaks not of individuals but of the church as God’s temple where the Spirit dwells.
  - The original Greek omits “your,” emphasizing the collective.
  - “God’s temple” refers to the Holy of Holies — the most sacred space of divine presence.
  - We must treasure the church as God’s holy dwelling.
  - v17: If anyone destroys the temple, God will destroy him. The church must be preserved as a sacred place of God’s presence.
  - Churches like Tomikawa Evangelical and Hidaka Christ Church must be such holy communities.
- 

## 2. Do Not Deceive Yourself – Become a Fool (vv.18–20)

- v18: The Corinthians were deceived into thinking they were wise and right.
  - Their divisions were based on their pride in being “right.”
  - Paul teaches that true wisdom requires becoming “foolish” in the world’s eyes.
  - Even giving offerings may seem foolish, yet it has eternal value for believers.
  - vv19–20: Worldly wisdom is folly before God. True wisdom is storing up treasures in God’s kingdom, not earthly ones.
-

### **3. Do Not Boast in Humans – Walk as Belonging to God (vv.21–23)**

- v21: No one should boast in human leaders; they belong to the congregation.
  - Leaders are not rulers but servants of the church.
  - v22: Everything — world, life, death, present, future — is given to the church.
  - v23: You belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.
  - The church must use all things for Christ, humbly, as He served the Father.
- 

### **Conclusion: We Belong to Christ**

- Though prone to self-deception, Scripture tells us we belong to Christ.
  - The church is not ours, but Christ's — and Christ belongs to God.
  - We must never divide God's temple, the most sacred place of His presence.
  - All we have must be used for Christ.
  - Do not boast or rely on human wisdom, but fix our eyes on Christ alone.
  - Love and protect the church as Christ's body.
  - Even when the world calls us "foolish," live out Christ's wisdom and joyfully walk in His truth.
  - "You are Christ's, and Christ is God's." Let us serve humbly and glorify the Lord.
- 

### **Time of Response: Meditation and Prayer**

- How do I see the church?
- Am I relying too much on worldly wisdom and hesitating to choose what may seem foolish before people but pleases God?
- As one who belongs to Christ, how am I using what He has entrusted to me?