

Sermon Discussion Guide




How Then Shall We Live: Self-Deceived

1 Corinthians 3:18–4:7

Brandon Laurantzon, September 17 & 18, 2016

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 Corinthians 3:18–4:7. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever been self-deceived? How were you self-deceived, and what woke you up out of your self-deception?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

THE SELF-DECEIVED PERSON THINKS THEY ARE WISE

- 3 Brandon said, "The simple truth is, we are not as smart as we think we are." Can you recall a time when you deceived yourself into thinking you knew more than you actually did? Why did God's questions humble Job?
- 4 How does the Genesis story reveal the heart of what it means to be self-deceived about our wisdom? Was there ever a season in your life when you said to God, "I am smarter than you are" or "I know better than you what is best for my life"?

THE SELF-DECEIVED PERSON BOASTS IN MEN

- 5 Why is it wrong to treat leaders in the church like celebrities? How did you react when Brandon said, “Be saddened, but don't be shocked if one of your pastors ever does something really stupid”?
- 6 What did Paul mean when he told the Corinthian Christians, “All things are yours”? Do you find it difficult to learn from different preachers and/or groups of believers? Why or why not?

THE SELF-DECEIVED PERSON IS QUICK TO PRONOUNCE JUDGMENT

- 7 What gave Paul the ability to not only not care about other people judging him, but also to be able to say, “I do not even judge myself”?
- 8 Are you willing to give other people the same amount of grace, patience, and time that God has given you? Why or why not?

THE SELF-DECEIVED PERSON IS PROUD

- 9 Do you find it difficult to believe that *every* good thing in your life and about you is a gift from God? What is enlightening about what Mike Tyson’s quote?
- 10 How would you describe to an un-churched person the concept of “total grace”? Discuss the following quote: “If you have the righteousness of Christ, then God will not love you more when you obey, and he will not love you less when you disobey.”
- 11 How was the story about the sister in the Italian earthquake an illustration of the gospel?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?