

1 Corinthians 4

Paul is still discussing the four divisions at Corinth based on preachers

1 Corinthians 4.1-5

V1 – What is a steward or stewardess? A person who serves others (plane, train, etc.)
-**The mysteries?** The principles of the gospel as being revealed in the New Testament
-It included the coming of the Messiah (*Matt. 13.11*) and the fact that the Gentiles were now acceptable to God (*Eph. 3.1-7*)

V2 – What does a master (or boss) require of a steward? Honesty and trustworthiness

V3 – In what sense were the Corinthians "judging" the preachers? Choosing one over the other

V4 – Does it matter finally what people think about us? No, it only matters what God thinks about us

V5 – Instead of judging our brothers and sisters, what should we do? Wait and let the Lord do it
-Where else is that stated? Read Romans 14.1-4

1 Corinthians 4.6-13

V6 – What advice do we receive in v 6? Not to become arrogant toward one another
-**What did Paul mean by saying that we are not to go beyond "what is written"?** As we often say, we are to "speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent"
-It is a sin to add to the Bible or subtract from the Bible

V7 – Three questions to bring on humility?

1. For who regards you as superior?
2. What do you have that you did not receive?
3. And if you did receive it, who do you boast as if you had not received it?

-**Why could they not be arrogant in their faith?** God had given them their faith and the spiritual gifts and their congregation – they could not brag about what they had done!

V8 – Paul went out to sharpen his pencil! – Much sarcasm and irony!

-**"filled"** = satisfied; no spiritual needs

-**"had become rich"**

-**"Without us" – Who? Apostles – Significance?** They thought they were greater than the apostles

-**"indeed"** – If it were only true!

-Paul was saying they thought they had become great without the help of the apostles (how arrogant)

-**Paul's sarcasm?** I wish that you were kings, so that we (the apostles) could reign with you

V 9-11 – Difficulties that Paul and the other apostles had faced

-summary of Paul's persecution and suffering: **Read 2 Cor. 11.23-30**

-**Angels view our actions:**

-*1 Cor. 11.10* – Covering (having long hair) the heads of women because of the angels

-*Gal. 3.19* – The Old Testament was ordained by angels

-*Heb. 1.13-14* – Ministering angels

-*Heb. 13.1-2* – People have entertained angels without knowing it

-The apostles were made spectacles before the world because of their persecution

-Summary of Paul's persecution – **Read 2 Corinthians 11.23-33**

V 12 – Working with own hands – See *2 Cor. 11.7-9*

V 13 – "*scum of the world*" – Example: the stuff we clean off of dirty dishes (totally worthless)

-**Compare the Corinthians' opinion of themselves VS. the situation with the apostles:**

The apostles were the "dregs" of the world

-definition of "dregs": the sediment from a liquid (as with coffee grounds)

-**How should the Corinthians have felt at the end of v 13?** Pretty small

1 Corinthians 4.14-21

V 14 – What did Paul say to "**cushion**" his comments? "to admonish...his beloved children"

V 15 – Many teachers – no ultimate concern

-*"Tutor"* – Greek translation: a slave who was assigned to teach the children of his master

V 16 – See *1 Cor. 11.1* – As I am to Christ....

-In other words, the Corinthians should be like the apostles (versus what they actually were at this time)

V 17 – Sending of Timothy – a reference to *Acts 19.22*

-His detractors thought he sent Timothy because he (Paul) was afraid to come

-**How would Timothy preach?** Just like Paul

V 18 – Much evidence that a group had arisen to challenge Paul

-*1 Corinthians 9.1-3* – his apostleship

-*2 Cor. 12.12* and *2 Cor. 1.17* – his "fickleness"

-*2 Cor. 10.10* – his weak appearance

V 19 – **The test?** If they had miraculous powers

V 21 – **Other examples of apostles using a "rod" on evil Christians?**

-Peter: Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 5.1-11*)

-Paul: Elymas the sorcerer (*Acts 13.8-12*)

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