

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "Straight Talk about Ministry" (Part 1)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, November 1, 2020

INTRODUCTION

1 Peter 4:10 -

I. LIFE AS A SERVANT OF CHRIST

1) We should consider ourselves as both lowly slaves and faithful stewards (trustworthy workers). (verses 1-2)

Note: The word translated "servants" is "hoopertays" (ὑπηρέτης) meaning "under oarsmen".

Note: We all have gifts/talents/resources that belong to Jesus and must be used for His glory.

Colossians 2:2b-3 -

Note: We are servants of Jesus entrusted with the truth about Jesus!

2) We should look and long to receive our praise from God (not from fellow servants of Christ and certainly not from the world!). (verses 3-5)

Note: The verb translated as "judged" (verse 3) means to examine, interrogate, or question.

Note: If your goal and objective in life is to win people's approval and have them "like you", you are living and walking in sinful pride and self-love.

Proverbs 21:2 -

3) Instead of being proud and arrogant, we should humble our hearts before God and His word. (verse 6)

1 Corinthians 10:6 -

4) As servants and stewards of Christ, we should boast in God's grace, not in ourselves. (verse 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?"

Note: God's grace teaches us to say: "Look at what God has done!" instead of "Look at me!"

5) The servant and faithful steward of Jesus gladly becomes a "fool" for the sake of the Gospel, joyfully gives up earthly comfort, and patiently endures persecution. (verses 8-13)

Mark 8:34-37 -

Romans 8:18 -

Matthew 25:23 -

Hebrews 11:24-26 -

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. We're called to be servants of Christ and faithful stewards (verse 1). In what ways are you tempted to reject being a servant of Christ? In what areas are you tempted to be an unfaithful steward?
2. Why is Paul not ultimately concerned about the Corinthian's opinion (or even his own opinion!) of himself, his life and ministry? What "day" is Paul most concerned about?
3. What does it mean to not "go beyond what is written" (verse 6)? Why does Paul give this command? How are we tempted to violate this command today?
4. Why does Paul ask three questions in verse 7? What's the point he's making here? What should these questions (and their answers) produce in us?
5. According to verses 8-13, what was life like as an Apostle? It sounds hard to follow Jesus, is it worth it? In your walk with Christ, how have you experienced hardship and persecution? What has God taught you or how has He grown you through those experiences?