

Series "Called To Be Saints"
"Follow The Leader"
1 Corinthians 4:8-21
Study-8

1 Corinthians 1:10-4:21 Divisions In The Church:

Spiritual Father - 1 Corinthians 4:14-15

- 1. Their love of human wisdom:**
- 2. Their hunger for the approval of the world:**
- 3. Pride in their own accomplishments:**

Revelation 3:17

Thought of Our Passage: "God's Servant Must Guard Against Pride And Arrogance By Walking In Humility And Love"

- 1. Verses 8-13 Leading Through Humility:**
- 2. Verses 14-21 Leading Through Gentleness:**

1. Verses 8-13 Leading Through Humility:

1 Corinthians 4:8 You are already filled,
Paul had been speaking about what a true minister was.

1 Corinthians 4:1-7 Paul had spoken about the divisions that were within the church.

- 1. Responsibilities Of A Minister:**
- 2. Evaluation Of A Minister:**
- 3. Freedom Of A Minister:**

Verses 8-10 Paul In Contrast To The Church:

(Paul's Inspired Sarcasm) You are already filled, represents self-satisfaction **(Acts 27:38) "eaten enough" you have already become rich,** portray "self-sufficiency"

Revelation 3:17-18; Ephesians 1:3

The 1st Church Of Superiority: you have become kings without us;
"a sense of spiritual triumph with no more conflict" They **no longer needed Paul or any other apostles**

The Corinthians got into this smug thinking that they had the truth and all others were lost.

Romans 8:16-17

(K.J.V.) Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests

and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.

Will take place in the millennial kingdom. **(Philippians 3:12-14)**

1 Corinthians 4:9

Apostles Are The Pattern For Believers: For, I think, God has exhibited us

exhibited the verb "*set forth*" - was used of doomed gladiators forced into the arenas to fight and to die.

apostles last of all, Paul is saying that he was the last act in the Coliseum

as men condemned to death; There were 12 and Judas hung himself, of the other 11 with the exception of John, all were martyred for the Lord.

because we have become a spectacle to the world, This word, **spectacle** - "*Theater*" *That they are examples of what the world is not!*

both to angels and to men. To the world of evil angels and unsaved men. **(Hebrews 11:33-40)**

1 Corinthians 4:10

Contrast Of Fools Versus The Wise: We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; Apostles were fools in the eyes of the world.

Contrast The Weak Versus The Strong: we are weak, but you are strong; **2 Corinthians 12:9 my grace is sufficient for you!**

Contrast The Honorable Versus The Despised: you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

They wanted the approval by all people! 1 Corinthians 5

Verses 11-13 Paul In Contrast To The World: 1 Corinthians 4:11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, Persecution had

marked the apostle's life from the time of his conversion (**Acts 9:23**) to his present ministry at Ephesus (**1 Corinthians 16:9**)

We apostles demonstrate Jesus Christ: 1 Corinthians 4:12 and we toil, working with our own hands the Greeks despised manual labor.

when we are reviled, we bless; That is what Jesus did. That can only happen as a result through the new birth. **1 Peter 2:23**

when we are persecuted, we endure; we hang in there. We don't give up!

1 Corinthians 4:13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; Try and bring near, to call together, or near one's self.

we have become as the scum of the world, (Dust) Refers to *the sweepings and dust from the floor.* **the dregs of all things, even until now. (Garbage)** Involves the *food particles wiped off dishes and pots by rubbing hard, Rinsing's of dirty pans;* They were regarded as nothing but dust and garbage!

Faithfulness in service and Humility of mind: Is the genuine mark of the Christian. Pride has no place.

2. Verses 14-21 Leading Through Gentleness:

Verses 14-15 Father Correcting His Erring Son: I do not write these things to shame you,

but to admonish - Paul had to speak frankly; he could not remain silent or indifferent. **you as my beloved children.**

1 Corinthians 4:15 tutors – were usually slaves with no personal attachment to their students (**Galatians 3:24-25; 4:1-3**)

for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

Verses 16-17 Follow Me As I Follow Christ: 1 Corinthians 4:16 imitators of me Greek word, *we get "mimic, or to imitate"*
1 Corinthians 11:1

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this reason, I have sent to you Timothy, Paul wanted to go to Corinth to deal with the situation, but his ministry at Ephesus prevented him

who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, He was a man that Paul loved.

and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, Timothy was representing Paul.

just as I teach everywhere in every church. Paul did not treat them any differently than he would any other church.

Verses 18-20 Walk Your Talk: 1 Corinthians 4:18 Within the church was an emerging group which resisted Paul's apostolic authority **(9:1-3; II Cor. 1:17; 10:10; 12:12)**

1 Corinthians 4:19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, This shows the balance walk of the Christian. **James 4:13-16**

and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant, but their power. Words don't mean much, but actions do!

1 Corinthians 4:20

2 Timothy 3:5 "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"

Verse 21 Admonition With A Choice: 1 Corinthians 4:21

Disobedience would bring the rod of chastisement, but submission and repentance would produce warm embraces.

Application:

- 1.** Do I Think I Have Arrived? Can Others Still Reach And Teach Me?
- 2.** Do I Hold Exclusively To One Teacher?
- 3.** Are My Standards That Of Society, Or That Of The Scriptures?
- 4.** Am I A Person Of Words Or A Person Of Words With Actions?
- 5.** What Do I Need To Change In View Of What I Have Just Heard?