

**Series “Called To Be Saints”  
“God’s Minister”  
1 Corinthians 4:1-7  
Study-7**

**Lest we think that Paul is speaking only to ministers, note 1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-6:20 Reproof: The Report Of Sin In The Church:**

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

**Thought of Our Passage:** “God’s Ministers Are Servants And Managers Of God’s Truth, Through Which The Lord Himself Will Examine And Judge”

**1. Verses 1-2 Minister’s Responsibilities**

**2. Verses 3-5 Minister’s Evaluation**

**3. Verses 6-7 Minister’s Freedom**

**1. Verses 1-2 Minister’s Responsibilities**

**1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man regard us (Context) 1 Corinthians 3:22-23**

**Paul has been speaking about building for eternity. 1 Corinthians 3**

**regard us** - Paul changes and begins to focus on what the ministers should be like.

**in this manner, - Ministers are likened to 3 Things: Servants, Stewards, Must Be Faithful**

- 1. Ministers Are Servants: as servants of Christ, - Paul says here that ministers are to be seen as servants of Christ!**

**There is a sense in which all believers are ministers of Christ. Every Christian is a minister -**

**There are 4 different words for “Servant” that are used in Scripture:**

- 1. A Slave:** *“a bond-slave (-man), servant” one that is bound by love that serves out of love. Chosen, voluntarily* **Romans 1:1**
- 2. Household Servant:** *“a fellow resident, menial domestic (household) servant”* **Romans 14:4**
- 3. Servant In Service:** *“to run on errands; an attendant, a waiter (at table or in other menial duties) a deacon or minister, servant”* **Romans 16:1**

4. **Oarsman:** *“an under-oarsman, subordinate, servant”* It described the slaves who rowed in the huge Roman galleys. It came to refer to any subordinate—usually an assistant, a helper. **1 Corinthians 4:1**

**They are "under-rowers" of Christ.**

**Luke 17:7-10**

2. **Ministers Are Stewards: and stewards - "house law"** A steward was an administrator, a trustee, an overseer of an estate. He was under the owner and over others within the house. *“a house-distributor (manager), or overseer, an employee in that capacity of oversight”* Joseph was a chief steward in Potiphar’s household (**Genesis 39**). The church is the **“household of faith” (Galatians 6:10)**

**We would call them “Administrator” or "Supervisor"**

**Acts 20:28**

**Being “God’s Stewards” Applies To All Christians: 1 Peter 4:10**

**of the mysteries of God Mentions 4 mysteries of God:**

1. "mystery of the kingdom of God," Mark 4:11
2. "mystery of iniquity" 2 Thessalonians 2:7 of lawlessness.
3. "mystery of godliness" 1 Timothy 3:16
4. "mystery of the church" Ephesians 3:1-6

**1 Corinthians 4:2** In this case, moreover, **it is required** if they are not trustworthy what good are they?

3. **Ministers Must Be Faithful: trustworthy – “faithful, sure, true”**

**Romans 14:4**

**2. Verses 3-5 Minister’s Evaluation:**

**1 Corinthians 4:3**

**3 Ways To Evaluate:**

1. **Ministers’ Faithfulness Is Not Determined By Others: But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, “to scrutinize, investigate, interrogate, question, discern, examine, judge, search”**

**The first pressure Paul mentions is congregational evaluation, and he puts that at the very bottom of the list. "It is a very small thing,"**

a very small thing that I may be examined by you Paul did not think it such an important thing, it did not mean much to him. Paul be compared to other ministers.

**Stuart Briscoe says there are three kinds of congregational pressure:**

1. Adoration (which swells the head)
2. Manipulation (which ties the hands)
3. Antagonism (which breaks the heart)

or by any human court; He did not care if it was some counsel that was put together, some human form of judging and critiquing.

The phrase **any human court (man's judgment)** is literally "*man's day*" This is in contrast to *God's day of judgment yet to come*.

2. **Ministers' Faithfulness Is Not Determined By Self: in fact, I do not even examine myself.** Paul did not even care as to what he thought of himself.

**2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith or not,"**

**(We can be hard on ourselves, or too lenient!)**

**1 Corinthians 4:4 For I am conscious of nothing against myself,  
1 Corinthians 9:27**

**yet I am not by this acquitted;** We are very limited as to the overall picture.  
**Hebrews 4:12**

3. **Ministers' Faithfulness Is Determined By God: but the one who examines me is the Lord.** He says "*Lord is continually examining me*"  
**Matthew 18:15-20** God uses other people at times when we sin!

**1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore** God is the true Judge; He will be the one that will see the truth.

**do not go on passing judgment before the time,** - This is not just speaking of sin but motives in people's lives. That was not their task (**Romans 14:10, 13**)

**and then each man's praise will come to him from God.** God will reward each one of us accordingly to what we really deserve.

**3. Verses 6-7 Minister's Freedom**

**1 Corinthians 4:6 Now these things, brethren,** Speaking about responsibility and the evaluation of the minister.

**so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written,** - Sometimes our standards have gone beyond what the Bible says!

**No Believer Is Better Than Another: so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.**

**What freedom it is to not be controlled by pride:**

**1 Corinthians 4:7 For who regards you as superior?** The answer to this has to be referring to man! What does it matter what man says?

**Every Believer Is Indebted To God: What do you have that you did not receive?**

**And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?**

**Application:**

- 1. A Minister Is A Servant Of Christ, A Steward That Gives Forth, And One Who Is Faithful To God:**
- 2. Evaluation Of A Minister Comes From God. God Rightfully Judges Us. God Is Our Master, Not Others:**
- 3. Freedom Of A Minister. No Believer Is Better Than Another Believer. Believers Are Indebted To God From Which We Have Received All Things:**