

Title: "Servants of Christ"
1 Corinthians 4:1-7

1 Corinthians 4:1 (KJV) Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Minister: It is the Latin word ministerium, which is the equivalent of service. Minister is a person who is in service, one who assists or helps another.

The Old Testament uses the word mesharet, referring to one who is in service to someone important, like a governor or a king.

Exodus 24:13 So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

Exodus 39:1 Moreover, from the blue and purple and scarlet material, they made finely woven garments for ministering in the holy place as well as the holy garments which were for Aaron, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

In the New Testament we see the word diákonos which is a deacon, means minister and indicates the duty as well as the office, which is the equivalent of servant, helper, waiter, one who waits tables.

Matthew 22:13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 20:26 "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

Genesis 39:3-6

We will look at these 3 points tonight:

- 1. Trustworthy ~ Faithfulness Vv. 1-2**
- 2. Judgment Vv. 3-5**
- 3. The Application Vv. 6-7**

1. Trustworthy ~ Faithfulness Vv. 1-2

1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

1 Corinthian 3:4-9

and stewards of the mysteries of God. ~ steward here is translated "under-rowers"

How can a servant even begin to think that something is beneath them to do?

Acts 20:28 (New Living Translation)

28 "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.

2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

Semper Fi; from the Latin Semper Fidelis. Always Faithful

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

So the servant, the steward will be judged by his master in accordance with his faithfulness.

2. Judgment Vv. 3-5

3 But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.

1. Be judged or examined by you, or by any human court;

1 Corinthians 4:3 (New Living Translation)

3 As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point.

2. This is the second type of judgment: "in fact, I do not even examine myself."

I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. ~ I don't even trust my own conscience.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

3. The judgment that counts ~ but the one who examines me is the Lord.

Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

1 Corinthians 5:12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?

3. The Application Vv. 6-7

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

But we should not compare one against another, causing division, jealousy and strife. Chasing after this one or that one cause they are going or coming here.

In that freedom, we no longer have to be controlled by our egos, or by the opinions of others, for that matter even my own opinion. It is the Lord that will judge us, Our responsibility is to be FAITHFUL, to be found TRUSTWORTHY.

Application:

1. We have the responsibility as (ministers); as servants and stewards to be faithful and share His mysteries.
2. It is God who is going to judge me. I don't have to be concerned at what others think of me. My responsibility is to live to please my Lord and Master.
3. I have a freedom to be servant and the steward He has called me to be. I am not in competition with anyone else. My responsibility is to use the gifts, talents and abilities that he has given me.