

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 4:1-2
Ministers As Faithful Stewards

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Servants of Christ

1 Corinthians 4:1a (CSB)
A person should **think of us in this way**: as **servants** of Christ...

- **Context: Do not boast in human leaders (3:21-23)**
- **'Servants' *hupēreteis* denotes subordinates under another's direction**
- **Luke uses this word in Luke 1:2 and Acts 26:16 in the same manner**

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Stewards of Mysteries

1 Corinthians 4:1b (CSB)
...and **managers** of the **mysteries** of God.

- **'Managers' *oikonomos* means household or estate managers (stewards)**
- **Mysteries of God: the revelation of the gospel (2:7; Ephesians 6:19)**
- **Mystery here is what would not be known had God not chosen to reveal it**

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Key Job Requirement: Faithfulness

1 Corinthians 4:2 (CSB)
In this regard, it is required that managers **be found faithful**.

- **God appointed His ministers to be stewards of the gospel and His flock**
- **The gospel and its eschatological implications are the key issues**
- **'Faithful' *pistos* implies faithful to the one whose household he cares for**

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Implications and Applications

- **We must not allow popular expectations to determine how we regard Christian ministry**
- **The terms of faithful stewardship are revealed in Scripture**
- **We must take seriously the Lord's eschatological promises and warnings**

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Stewardship of the Gospel

Colossians 1:25-26 (ESV)
of which I became a minister according to **the stewardship from God** that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the **mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed** to his saints.

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The True Hope of Glory

Colossians 1:27 (ESV)

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.

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Gospel Stewardship in Practice

Colossians 1:28-29 (ESV)

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and **teaching** everyone with all wisdom, **that we may present everyone mature in Christ**. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

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The Master Will Return

Luke 12:42-43 (ESV)

And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise **manager**, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes."

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Eschatological Reckoning

Luke 12:45-46 (ESV)

But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.

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