

Division in the Body
1 Corinthians 4

- I. How the believers at Corinth were really to view those they had created division in the church over. Vs 1-4
- A. Ministers of Christ Vs 1a
1. *Minister*-"The word rendered "ministers," means, literally, "under-rowers." The figure is that of a ship impelled by oars. The church is the ship; Christ commands; the rowers only obey orders. Since they have no right to give orders, no parties should be formed about them." [B. W. Johnson, *Johnson's Notes on the New Testament*, (St. Louis, MO: Christian Publishing Company, 1891)]
 2. They were Christ's ministers and _____ to Him
 3. They were not to be considered in the position as a leader but a _____ (of Christ)
- B. Stewards of the mysteries of God Vs 1b
1. *Steward*-One placed in charge of overseeing another's _____
 2. These men were given the responsibility of _____ the Church of God and the proper teaching of the Truths of God
 3. Their loyalty was to the One who _____ the possession-the Lord Jesus Christ
- C. As ministers and stewards they were required to be found faithful to God Vs 2
1. Faithful to the _____ of God on their life
 2. Faithful to the "_____" God had entrusted to their oversight
 3. Faithful to the _____ of God
- D. As ministers and stewards they were to be unmoved by the _____ of people Vs 3
- E. As a minister and steward Paul was not aware of unfaithfulness in his life. Vs 4a
- a. But this did not _____ him from God's scrutiny Vs 4b
 - b. Ultimately Paul knew that he and the other ministers and stewards would stand before God and _____ an account of their stewardship Vs 4c
- II. Leave the _____ of other believers to God, Who alone is qualified. Vs 5
- A. *Hidden things of darkness*-God will reveal the _____ of the believer's heart Cf. 3:13
- B. *Make manifest the counsels of the hearts*-God will reveal the _____ of the believer's heart
- C. Then the praise that _____ counts will be given-*Praise of God* Vs 5b
- III. Paul wanted the people at Corinth to see him and Apollos this way: Vs 6
- A. So that the division in the body would _____!
- B. So that they would stop following _____ and instead follow Christ
1. As a Christian to follow man's opinion is to _____ that man to the level of Christ in authority
 2. To elevate some sinful man to the level of Christ in authority is a form of _____
- C. *Puffed up for one against another*-So that the _____ piety would go away Vs 6b Cf. 1:10-13; 3:1-10
- IV. On what _____ do we consider ourselves more holy than another believer? Vs 7
- A. All the believer has and is, _____ has given it to them. Vs 7a
- B. If we received everything from God why do we believe that we are _____ spiritual than another believer? Vs 7b
- V. Paul contrasts their "_____" in life with that of the Apostles Vs 8-13
- A. The status of the believers at Corinth was _____
1. *Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us*
 2. The believers at Corinth were _____ and it had caused them to become puffed up

- B. The status of the Apostles
1. They were being _____ and maligned for the cause of Christ
 2. They were anything but _____ up over their status
- C. Paul's contrast is in reality a _____ to the believers at Corinth
1. We are _____ for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ Vs 10a
 2. We are _____, but ye are strong Vs 10b
 3. Ye are honourable, but we are _____ Vs 10c
 4. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; And labour, working with our own hands (Vs 11-12a) while you are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us (Vs 8)
- D. Paul's explanation of how the Apostles handle the hardship brought on them by _____ Vs12b-13
1. *Being reviled*, (_____ by people) *we bless*; (speak kindly to those who revile) Vs 12b
 2. *Being persecuted* (mistreated), *we suffer it*: (_____ and accept it) Vs 12c
 3. *Being defamed* (spoken _____ against), *we entreat* (comfort and encourage) Vs 13a
 4. *We are made as the filth* (_____) *of the world, and are the off scouring* (that which is _____ off the dirty dishes) *of all things unto this day* Vs 13b
- VI. Paul is warning the believers to wake up and realize who they are, and what sacrifice had been made so they might be a part of the body of Christ, and thus stop their _____ over non-essentials Vs 14-16
- A. Paul reminds them of the love he has for them and therefore he is _____ them Vs 14
- B. Paul reminds them of his sincere love for them and that they need to _____ the example he has set for them to follow. Vs 15-16
1. He was their spiritual _____ since he had been used of God to start the church
 2. There will always be those who want to be your _____, often to only present their point of view on a subject and thus gather a following to their cause. (Cf. Book of Galatians)
- VII. Paul sent Timothy to further instruct the believers at Corinth and they were to receive him and his teaching with _____ as though it were Paul teaching them. Vs 17-18
- A. Paul sent someone he could _____ to instruct the believers at Corinth into Biblical truth and not the opinions of man Vs 17
- B. There were some who had become _____ not expecting Paul to every come again.
1. Since they did not expect Paul to ever return to Corinth they felt free to do what they wanted and teach what they wanted to teach without ever being challenged from the Scripture Vs 18
 2. *Puffed up*-inflated by their own prideful _____
- VIII. Paul warns them that he is going to come and will deal with them in _____ or in discipleship-that was up to the believers at Corinth. Vs 19-21
- A. Paul _____ on God to allow or not allow him to minister to believers Vs 19a
- B. When he came he would not be impressed by their arrogant _____, but would look for the _____ of God on their actions and words Vs 19b
1. *The kingdom of God is not in word*-God's kingdom is not built on the _____ of man
 2. *The kingdom of God is in power*-God's kingdom is built by and on the power and authority of God _____
- C. Paul leaves them with something to think about:
1. *Shall I come unto you with a rod*-Shall I be required, by your puffed up attitude to _____ you with a rod of chastening and rebuke Vs 21b
 2. *Shall I come in love, and in the spirit of meekness*-Shall I come to be an _____, and edifier to build you up in the Faith Vs 21c
 3. *What will ye*-The choice is up to _____ as to how I will behave when I do come Vs 21a