

Messy

Part Four: God's power

May 29, 2022

The Corinthians were arguing over which of their pastors was the wisest, most talented, and important. In chapters 1-3, Paul reminds the Corinthians that their ministers did not invent the plan of salvation, die on the cross for their sins, or author the Bible. Paul tells the Corinthians that they should not boast about their church leaders - they should only boast in Christ! In Chapter Four, Paul concludes his section dealing with divisions in the church by helping the Corinthians properly view their ministers, themselves, and himself.

1st - Paul showed the Corinthians their ministers. 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

- First, Paul told the Corinthians that ministers are servants of Christ. Vs. 1a

The Greek word translated servants in verse one means “under rowers.” Paul chose this word to teach the Corinthians that ministers are all the same - they are just servants of Christ rowing where He tells them to row.

- Next, Paul told the Corinthians that ministers explain God's Word. Vs. 1b

Ministers have many duties, but none are more important than explaining God's Word to God's people, so they are equipped to do God's work (Ephesians 4:11-13).

- Finally, Paul told the Corinthians that Jesus is the only One qualified to judge ministers. Vs. 2-5

The Corinthians did not have the authority nor the ability to judge their ministers. Only Jesus can see a minister's darkest secrets and reveal his private motives.

2nd - Paul showed the Corinthians themselves. Vs. 6-13

- First, Paul told the Corinthians they were prideful. Vs. 6-7
- Next, Paul told the Corinthians they were needy. Vs. 8
- Finally, Paul told the Corinthians they were foolish. Vs. 9-13

The Corinthians were trying to look wise, powerful, and important by associating themselves with “great men.” But Paul told the Corinthians, “If you want to be like your ministers, you need to be willing to work hard and suffer for the Lord.”

3rd - Paul showed the Corinthians himself. Vs. 14-21

- First, Paul told the Corinthians he is their spiritual father, then he begged them to follow him as he follows Jesus. Vs. 14-17
- Paul asked the Corinthians if they want him to visit them with a rod or a gentle spirit. Vs. 18-21

Paul said he was going to visit Corinth to find out if the people causing division in the church were just a lot of talk, or if they were living by the power of God. For, a person's true spiritual character is not revealed by their words, but by their actions.

Here's the lesson for today...

Christians need to constantly evaluate their life to make sure their walk matches their talk!