

The Problem with Elevators



Paul continues to unpack for us how essential our being unified is to God. He describes how we can more fully experience and display God's love and grace, for our ever-increasing happiness, and for the good of those He desires to introduce to Jesus through us.



1 Corinthians 4:1-7

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the

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things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. ⁶I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. ⁷ For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?



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Entrusted by God



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- Entrusted by God
- Faithful to God



1 Corinthians 4:1-2

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- Entrusted by God
- Faithful to God
- Evaluated by God



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 - We don't take others' appraisals more seriously than we should



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 - We don't take others' appraisals more seriously than we should
 - We don't take our own appraisals more seriously than we should



1 Corinthians 4:1-4

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- Entrusted by God
- Faithful to God
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 - We don't take others' appraisals more seriously than we should
 - We don't take our own appraisals more seriously than we should
 - We will be appraised and rewarded by God



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Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

We will not elevate some brothers or sisters over others (including ourselves).



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Elevating or lowering our view of others (or ourselves) is a symptom we are looking for our identity, our significance and security in the approval of others rather than God.

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- Finding our ultimate identity, our security and significance in the love of God empowers us to not seek too much from others. We will not immaturely elevate or lower others or ourselves.

We will not elevate some brothers or sisters over others (including ourselves).



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- God is the source of our continuing to grow in our ever-increasing treasuring of Jesus.



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- God will complete our faith and bring us eventually to His immediate presence.

Why would we ever unfairly elevate or lower our view of anyone (including ourselves)?



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Why would we look for our identity, significance and security in the approval of other people?



God's love and grace are the foundation, the empowering fuel of our lives.



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We find our identity, our significance, our security, our happiness in God's love and grace.



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That is why we do not immaturely elevate or lower our view of other people or ourselves.

