

Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³But 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. ⁴For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore 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. 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. ⁷For 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?

The Problem with Elevators

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

Todd Chapman - March 21, 2021

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.

We view all Christ-treasurers as stewards and servants.

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

We wholeheartedly recognize that everything we are and have is a result of God's grace and love.

Notes:

Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on 1 Corinthians 4:1-7

Getting Started

1. In what ways do you think people in our culture tend to elevate themselves over others?
2. Do you ever struggle with puffing yourself up or putting yourself down? How so?
3. Why might understanding that God is the ultimate judge be important for us to maintain healthy relationships?

Digging into the Text

4. Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-7 and respond:
 - Based on v. 1, explain how people should view Paul and other Christ-treasurers.
 - What does being a 'faithful steward' actually mean?
 - In looking at vv. 3-5, why is judging ourselves or others ultimately unimportant? What truly matters most?
 - Why is Paul so concerned that the Corinthians stop elevating certain people over others? In what ways does it distort or diminish God's glory and design?
 - Summarize in your own words the big idea of this passage.

Applying It to My Life

5. In what ways might you be inaccurately judging or elevating yourself or others?
6. What is a step you can take this week to be more mindful of leaving the results in God's hands and just focusing on faithfully fulfilling your assigned duties?
7. How can the group be praying for you as we all desire to grow in our faithfulness to Jesus?