

First

# CORINTHIANS

**CHRIST ALONE: TOGETHER**



**Ain't Your Life Great!**

Paul has been trying to help the Corinthians understand that they are reflecting the values of their culture more than the values that flow from treasuring Jesus. As he wraps up this admonition, Paul gets very direct.

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

# 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

<sup>8</sup> Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! <sup>9</sup> For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. <sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are

## 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute.  
<sup>11</sup> To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, <sup>12</sup> and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; <sup>13</sup> when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

**Paul about the Corinthians – Your life is great.**

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**Paul about the Corinthians – Your life is great.**

- **Have all you want**



**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

**Paul about the Corinthians – Your life is great.**

- Have all you want
- **Rich**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

**Paul about the Corinthians – Your life is great.**

- Have all you want
- Rich
- **Kings**

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**Paul about the Corinthians – Your life is great.**

- Have all you want
- Rich
- Kings
- **Wise in Christ**

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**Paul about the Corinthians – Your life is great.**

- Have all you want
- Rich
- Kings
- Wise in Christ
- **Strong**

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**Paul about the Corinthians – Your life is great.**

- Have all you want
- Rich
- Kings
- Wise in Christ
- Strong
- **Honored**

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**Corinthian perspective: Life is great in every way, plus we have Jesus.**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

Corinthian perspective: Life is great in every way, plus we have Jesus.

**Paul's perspective: The cultures' values are impacting you more than they should.**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

**Paul – apostles – Our life stinks (relatively speaking)**



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We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. <sup>11</sup> To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, <sup>12</sup> and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; <sup>13</sup> when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

# Paul

- Sentenced to death
- Spectacle to world, angels, men
- Fools for Christ's sake
- Weak
- Disrepute
- Hunger and thirst
- Poorly dressed
- Buffeted and homeless
- Work with our own hands
- Reviled – we bless
- Persecuted – we endure
- Slandered – we entreat
- Scum of the world
- Refuse of all things

# Corinthians

# Corinthians

- **Have all you want**

# Corinthians

- Have all you want
- **Rich, kings**

# Corinthians

- Have all you want
- Rich, kings
- **Wise**

# Corinthians

- Have all you want
- Rich, kings
- Wise
- **Strong**



# Corinthians

- Have all you want
- Rich, kings
- Wise
- Strong
- **Honored**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

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- **Divisions among you**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
- **Quarreling**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
- Quarreling
- **Celebrating messengers**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
- Quarreling
- Celebrating messengers
- **Impressed by lofty speech**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
- Quarreling
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- Impressed by lofty speech
- **Not spiritual people**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
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- Impressed by lofty speech
- Not spiritual people
- **Fleshly**



# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
- Quarreling
- Celebrating messengers
- Impressed by lofty speech
- Not spiritual people
- Fleshly
- **Infants in Christ**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
- Quarreling
- Celebrating messengers
- Impressed by lofty speech
- Not spiritual people
- Fleshly
- Infants in Christ
- **Behaving in human way**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
- Quarreling
- Celebrating messengers
- Impressed by lofty speech
- Not spiritual people
- Fleshly
- Infants in Christ
- Behaving in human way
- **Spiritual work may be burned up**

# Paul's prior assessment of Corinthians:

- Divisions among you
- Quarreling
- Celebrating messengers
- Impressed by lofty speech
- Not spiritual people
- Fleshly
- Infants in Christ
- Behaving in human way
- Spiritual work may be burned up
- **Puffed up**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

**Why does Paul get so sarcastic?**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

Why does Paul get so sarcastic?

**My rules regarding sarcasm:**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

Why does Paul get so sarcastic?

**My rules regarding sarcasm:**

- **You never send a message with sarcasm**

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Why does Paul get so sarcastic?

**My rules regarding sarcasm:**

- You never send a message with sarcasm
- **Getting a laugh can be the only objective for sarcasm**



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**Paul breaks my rule. He sends a message with sarcasm.**

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**Why does Paul get so sarcastic?**

- **Their inconsistency is not seen by them**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

Paul breaks my rule. He sends a message with sarcasm.

**Why does Paul get so sarcastic?**

- Their inconsistency is not seen by them
- **Their inconsistency is a big deal**

To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.

**Paul is telling the Corinthians to change the way they are living to more fully display Jesus. To imitate Paul.**

# 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

<sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup> For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>16</sup> I urge you, then, **be imitators of me**. <sup>17</sup> That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. <sup>18</sup> Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. <sup>19</sup> But I will come to you

# 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. <sup>20</sup> For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. <sup>21</sup> What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

**Paul is telling the Corinthians to change the way they are living to more fully display Jesus. To imitate Paul.**

- **Paul is admonishing (not shaming)**



# 1 Corinthians 4:14

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- **Paul loves them deeply**

# 1 Corinthians 4:14-15

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- Paul loves them deeply
- **Paul's teaching is consistent**

## 1 Corinthians 4:14-17

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- Paul's teaching is consistent
- **Not listening to Paul is not good**

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- Paul is admonishing (not shaming)
- Paul loves them deeply
- Paul's teaching is consistent
- Not listening to Paul is not good
- **Imitating Paul manifests the power of God**



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**How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.**

# How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.

- Promoting Jesus alone

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- Promoting Jesus alone
- **Not caring about impressing others**

# How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.

- Promoting Jesus alone
- Not caring about impressing others
- **Not using lofty language**

# How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.

- Promoting Jesus alone
- Not caring about impressing others
- Not using lofty language
- **Willing to be despised**

# How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.

- Promoting Jesus alone
- Not caring about impressing others
- Not using lofty language
- Willing to be despised
- **Boasting only in Jesus**

# How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.

- Promoting Jesus alone
- Not caring about impressing others
- Not using lofty language
- Willing to be despised
- Boasting only in Jesus
- **Building unity with all believers**



# How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.

- Promoting Jesus alone
- Not caring about impressing others
- Not using lofty language
- Willing to be despised
- Boasting only in Jesus
- Building unity with all believers
- **Serving brothers and sisters who need to grow**

# How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.

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- Not caring about impressing others
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- Building unity with all believers
- Serving brothers and sisters who need to grow
- **Willing to endure persecution**

# How God's power manifests in us? How Paul lived.

- Promoting Jesus alone
- Not caring about impressing others
- Not using lofty language
- Willing to be despised
- Boasting only in Jesus
- Building unity with all believers
- Serving brothers and sisters who need to grow
- Willing to endure persecution
- **Advancing only Jesus**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

**Why were the Corinthians and why are we so influenced by our culture?**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

Why were the Corinthians and why are we so influenced by our culture?

**It appears more interesting and attractive than Jesus.**

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**What is the solution?**

**To help them recognize the incongruity of their lives, Paul sarcastically contrasts himself with the Corinthians.**

What is the solution?

**Keep looking, studying, thinking about Jesus.**

# 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, **to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints** together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both **their Lord and ours**: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from **God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**. <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the **grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus**, <sup>5</sup> that **in every way you were enriched in him**



# 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.