

1 Corinthians 4:8-21

⁸Already 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! ⁹For 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. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹²and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things. ¹⁴I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷That 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. ¹⁸Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

Ain't Your Life Great!

1 Corinthians 4:8-21

Todd Chapman - April 11, 2021

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

Notes:

Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on 1 Corinthians 4:8-21

Getting Started

1. When you see or sense incongruity in other peoples' lives (that is, when their behavior does not match what they say they believe), what is your typical response? Do you normally call it out, overlook it, become frustrated by it, or respond in some other way?
2. How have others helped you recognize or address inconsistencies in your own life?

Digging into the Text

3. Read 1 Corinthians 4:8-13 and respond:
 - Summarize in a sentence or two what the author is intending to communicate.
 - Why is Paul juxtaposing himself with the Corinthians? How might this help display how the Corinthians are in serious error?
 - Why do you think Paul is using so much sarcasm to explain his point?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-21 and respond:
 - Based on vv. 14-15, what is Paul's major reason for writing these things?
 - What is Paul's specific encouragement in v. 16, and what does he do to help provide the Corinthians further guidance in v. 17?
 - How does Paul suggest that the power of God is manifest in people?

Applying It to My Life

5. Consider an area of your life where what you believe is not perfectly matching what you're doing. What's a step you can take this week to live more in-line with God's Word?
6. How can the group be praying for you as we all desire to better reflect Jesus in our daily lives?