



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

The Corinthian Arrogance

Sunday, May 1, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Cor. 4:6-13

I. THE CORINTHIANS ARROGANTLY MISAPPLIED THE ROLE OF MINISTERS, 4:6.

A. Paul's Analogies Are to Teach the Corinthians a Biblical Perspective of Their Ministers, 4:6a.

1. In the agricultural analogy, Paul and Apollos are farmers and the Corinthians are God's field, 1 Cor 3:6-9.
2. In the construction analogy, Paul and Apollos are builders and the Corinthians are God's Building, 1 Cor 3:9b-16.
3. In the servant/steward analogy, Paul is a galley slave entrusted with the responsibility to faithfully teach the mysteries of God in service to the Lord, 4:1-5.

Instead of the Corinthians allowing God to use His trusted ministers to build them and grow them with the mysteries of God's word, the Corinthians were arrogantly debating over God's ministers.

B. Paul's Analogies Are to Drive the Corinthians to Humility as it Relates to Their Ministers, 4:6b.

1. **The Corinthians were driven by personalities rather than by God's Word, 4:6b; cf. 4:2.**
2. **The Corinthians were judging on matters where they were unqualified to make, 1 Cor 4:7; cf. 3:4-5 & 4:1-5.**

In verse 7, Paul asks three sarcastic questions designed to expose the arrogance of the Corinthians.

- a. The intent of the 1st question, 1 Cor 4:7a For who regards you as superior?**

*The question is intended to expose **their self-proclaimed wisdom**.*

b. The implications of the 1st question

- (1) The Corinthians had not been given the right or the insight to compare teachers.
- (2) The Corinthians had not been granted an exemption from Christ's judgment.
- (3) The Corinthians professed a spiritual "wisdom" that they did not possess.

3. The Corinthians assumed an understanding of God's Grace they truly lacked, 4:7b.

- a. The intent of the 2nd question, 1 Cor 4:7b What do you have that you did not receive [from God]?**

*The question is intended to expose **their self-sufficiency**.*

b. The implications of the 2nd question

- (1) All that the Corinthians possessed had been given to them by God.
- (2) Had the Corinthians been spiritually wise, they would have known that everything— absolutely everything— that one "has" is a gift.

4. The Corinthians failed to show gratitude for the gifts received from God, 4:7c

- a. **The intent of the 3rd question, 1 Cor 4:7c** *And if you did receive it [from God], why do you boast as if you had not received it [from God]?*

*The question is intended to expose **their lack of gratitude.***

b. The implications of the 3rd question

- (1) The spiritual response to a gracious God should have been gratitude not judgmentalism.
- (2) Had the Corinthians been truly spiritual, they would have been *thanking* God for their ministers not *judging* them.

II. THE CORINTHIANS ARROGANTLY APPLIED A MISTAKEN VIEW OF THE WORLD AND THE KINGDOM, 4:8, 10.

A. The Corinthians Had the Arrogant Mind-set That *They Had Arrived*, 4:8.

B. The Corinthians Had the Unbiblical Belief that the Unsaved World Would Embrace Christ and His Ministers if Only “Wisely” Displayed, 4:9-10.

1. The Corinthians *Wanted* the World to View Christ and His Followers as: 4:8, 10.

a. *Already filled*

b. *Already rich*

c. *Already kings and reigning*

d. *Wise*

e. *Strong*

f. *Honored*

2. Paul Says That the World *Will* View Christ and His Followers as: 4:9, 11-13.

- a. *Men condemned to death*
 - b. *A spectacle to the cosmic universe*
 - c. *Fools for Christ*
 - d. *Weak*
 - e. *Dishonored*
 - f. *The scum of the world*
 - g. *The dregs of all things*
- 3. Paul Speaks of the Depravation He Faced as a Dishonored Minister of Christ, 4:11-12a.**
- a. *Hungry and thirsty*
 - b. *Poorly clothed*
 - c. *Roughly treated*
 - d. *Homeless*
 - e. *Toiling*
- 4. Paul Responds to the World that Detests Christ By:**
- a. *Blessing when reviled*
 - b. *Enduring when persecuted*
 - c. *Answering kindly when slandered*

In pointing these things out, Paul is not seeking for sympathy. This raises the question: “Who is more like Jesus Christ? The “spiritually wise” Corinthians, or the “weak” and “dishonored” Paul?

III. APPLICATION

- A. Do Not Set-up Unbiblical Expectations for Ministers.**
- B. Instead of Judging those Who Faithfully Minister the Word, Express Thanks for Them.**
- C. Show Gratitude for the Gifts, Wisdom and Abilities That God Has Given You.**
- D. Abandon the Thought That this World Is a Friend to Grace While Embracing the Reality That *Friendship with the World Is Enmity with God.***
- E. Seek to Influence Unbelievers by:**
 - 1. *Blessing when reviled***
 - 2. *Enduring when persecuted***
 - 3. *Answering kindly when slandered***
 - 4. *Proclaiming Jesus Christ and Him crucified***

If we were more like our Lord and stood in opposition to the world and its self-proclaimed wisdom in favor of a Gospel that sends people to hell, then we would understand what it means to be scum in the eyes of the world's “beautiful” or “powerful” people.