

"CHRIST'S HEADSHIP FOR CHURCH CONFLICT"

I Corinthians 4:1-21

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. The pastor and his carnal church: (*I Cor. 3:1-3*) (*Acts 15:13; 18:11; I Cor. 4:15*)
 - 1. Strife and division on the inside: (*Pro. 13:10*) (*II Tim. 4:2; Tit. 3:9-10; Rom. 16:17*)
 - 2. Stunted growth –fruitless on the outside: (*See Heb. 5:11-14; Jn. 15:1-16*)
- B. Reviving the flame to a "smothered" church:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- C. The pastoral role as Christ's appointed steward:
 - 1. The visible manager: (*Mk. 10:42-43; II Tim. 4:5*)
 - 2. The visible example - servant leadership: (*I Tim. 4:12*)

"The pastor is a servant-leader who makes decisions for the local church that from Christ's perspective, are the best thing for the church, at his own expense. The daily sting of his own death to self, is where his leadership must begin." (*See Acts 15:13; Lk. 9:23*)

 - 3. The pressing tasks at hand to grasp: (*See back*)

II. EMBRACING CHRIST'S EXPECTATIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

- A. Envisioning the pastor as a faithful "steward": *vv. 1-6*
 - 1. Key words:
 - 2. Criticism: *vv. 6-8*
"Criticism is the manure in which God's servants grow best." Ps. 5
 - 3. Judging:
- B. Envisioning the pastor as a humble "spectacle": *vv. 7-13*
 - 1.
 - 2.
- C. Envisioning the pastor as a tender "father": *vv. 14-21*
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

A.

B.

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.

REBUKE FOR SINFUL CONDITIONS

1:10-6:20

Key: "Now I exhort you,
brethren . . ." (1:10a)

REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

7:1-16:9

Key: "Now concerning the things about
which you wrote . . ." (7:1a)

INTRODUCTION	
DIVISIONS in the church	DISORDERS in the church
Exposed 1:10-17	Moral Disorder 5:1-13
Explained 1:18-4:5	Legal Disorder 6:1-11
Applied 4:6-21	Carnal Disorder 6:12-20
Domestic Difficulty (Marriage & Divorce)	
Social Difficulty (Liberty & License)	
Ecclesiastical Difficulty (Women and Worship)	
Practical Difficulty (Gifts and Body)	
Doctrinal Difficulty (Death and Resurrection)	
Financial Difficulty (Giving and Receiving)	
CONCLUSION	