

L53 | I Corinthians | The Figure of Paul & Apollos | I Cor. 4:1-7

I. Intro/Review:

- Paul's reproof, correction, and instruction of proper judgment of a steward of God and minister of Christ
 1. Identity - that which is a steward and minister
 2. Criteria - faithful to God not man
 3. Attitude - humble, selfless, judgment made based upon God's judgment, not man's
 4. Judgment - ultimately and finally the Lord will judge and man's judgment and the Corinthians will not be the issue - praise ought to be sought of God, not man

II. Preview:

- These things in a figure transferred for the Corinthians sake
 - Not to think of men above that which is written
 - Not be puffed up for one against another
 - Qualities and knowledge judged by man that made each other different causing division

III. Sermon:

[6] - "And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."

Breakdown

And these things, brethren
I have in a figure transferred
to myself and
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- "And these things, brethren"
 - He and Apollos (:1 - "us") are ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God
 - Faithfulness to God and not man
 - More concerned with God's judgment, not man's

- Looking therefore for God's praise not man's
- "these things" in chapters 1-3
- **"I have in a figure transferred"**
 - Translated | "transforming themselves", "transformed", and "changed"
 - Definition | "figure" - the form of any thing expressed; shape, form; appearance; remarkable character
 - Usage
 - **2 Cor. 11:13-15** - "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves** into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is **transformed** into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be **transformed** as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."
 - **Php. 3:21** - "Who shall **change** our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."
- **"to myself and to Apollos"**
 - Difference, but all the things taught by Paul have transformed and changed Paul and Apollos and are expressed in each of them and manifest in their relationship.
- **"for your sakes"**
 - **"that ye might learn in us"**
 - The expression of the things Paul has written are manifest in Paul and Apollos for the learning of the Corinthians.
 - This edification confronts the cause of the divisions and contentions taking place at Corinth.
 - Paul and Apollos are not divided, but one in the ways Paul has taught and thus are ensamples to not employ worldly wisdom within the church.
 - **"not to think of men above that which is written"**
 - The lesson to be learned not to think of men more highly than you ought (Rom. 12:3), this is contrary to the world (Rom. 12:2) which elevates men highly.
 - **"that which is written"** - in 1 Corinthians 1-3, which involved numerous texts in the prophets
 - Passages that indict the nations and Israel for their haughtiness and works of darkness
 - Romans 13
 - **"that no one of you be puffed up for one against another"**
 - "puffed" - an expression used almost entirely with the Corinthians in this epistles

- Inflated mind concerning a themselves or a certain issue that they shouldn't be certain about.
- Such thinking was "against another" which is against the "one another" teaching of grace
 - Romans 12:9ff
 - Ephesians 4

IV. Conclusion: