

1 Corinthians 4

Jesus

- Invite guys up to pray for **Ethan**, Sean, Venita and Collin as Ethan off to basic training

1 Corinthians 3:10b ...as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But **let each one take heed how he builds on it.**

Take heed what/who you listen to

Take Heed: gr. **blepō** to turn your thoughts. Direct your mind. Consider. Contemplate. Look at. IOWs Weigh carefully what information you take in and who it is from...

I. He who Judges Me is the Lord

1 Let a man so **consider us**, as **servants** of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- **Consider us:** gr. *logizomai* take into account, weigh, meditate on

Paul's Apostolic Authority was being questioned

3 But with me it is a very **small thing** that **I should be judged by you** or by a human court. In fact, **I do not even judge myself**. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

Only the LORD can judge rightly

- I don't concern myself w/what you think of me
- I don't concern myself w/what I think of myself

1 John 3:18b ...let us not love in word or in tongue but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 20 [but] if our heart condemns us, **God is greater than our heart**, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

We do our best to Listen to/Listen for/Obey the voice of the LORD
Leave it with the LORD

Are we Servants? Have we been Faithful w/the Message?

Colossians 1:25 ... I became a minister according to the **stewardship from God** which was **given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God...**

I don't focus on your judgment of me or my judgment of myself
Only the LORD has Authority/Wisdom to judge rightly

5 Therefore **judge nothing before** the time, until **the Lord comes**, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness [**Hidden Sin**] and reveal the

counsels of the hearts [**Motivation**]. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Our sin looks so much worse on others

Romans 2:1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, **whoever you are who judge**, for in whatever you judge another **you condemn yourself**; for you who judge practice the same things.

Matthew 10:26 [Do not fear those who judge] ...knowing that there is **nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.**

Our sin looks so much worse on others, so...

Best to reserve judgment until Jesus comes with perfect Judgment
Jesus Himself will judge every individual's hidden Sin and Motivation

Hebrews 4:12 For the **word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the **thoughts and intents of the heart**. 13 And there is no creature hidden from **His sight**, but all things are **naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

If anything is left when the dust settles... Our praise will come from God

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

So take heed what/who you listen to
Listen for God's Word. Listen to God's Word. Obey God's Word

- Spirit Initiated
- God Glorifying
- In Line w/God's Word

These are the building blocks that will remain
These are the works that will receive Eternal Reward

Paul asks the Corinthians to consider him and Apollos
Are we Servants? Are we Faithful with the Message?

II. Puffed Up

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred [used as an illustration] myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think **beyond what is written** that none of you may be **puffed up** on behalf of one against the other.

Hirelings followed after Paul left distorted what he said/Who he was

Corinthians were listening to teachers teaching things beyond what was written. OT Reason? Pride. To differentiate themselves above others causing division

- **Puffed Up:** 4x in Ch's 4/5
- **Puffed up:** *physioō* To inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up...especially re. the head

Intellectualism vs Spirituality
Gifts vs Gratitude...

7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

- **With regard to gifts...**

1. What do you have that you did not receive? Nothing
2. If all you have has been given why do you boast as if you earned it?

Augustine used this text often in proclaiming the total depravity of man... He knew that it taught there is nothing good in us except what we have received from God. [Guzik]

Romans 11:6 ...if [Salvation is] by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

Very Definition of Grace: Undeserved Gift

Disgraced former Hillsong Pastor Carl Lentz after being fired: Critics of the megachurch culture are simply "insecure" or "unable to grow a church." They are like those *insecure kids which are talking about the cool kids*.

There is nothing more insufferable than an arrogant Christian
Paul: Wow look at you! Since we left you now reign as Kings of Christianity in Corinth!

8 You are **already full!** You are **already rich!** You have **reigned as kings** without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

Is there room in the Amphitheater for me/Apollos?
Corinth had a distorted carnival mirror view of themselves...

Revelation 3:17 [Jesus to Laodicea] Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—**19b** ...be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

False teachers: Paul/Apollos are suffering because God is punishing them
Paul to Corinth: Do you think that we're *less godly* because we suffer?

9 For I think that **God** has **displayed us**, the apostles, last, as **men condemned to death**; for we have been made a **spectacle to** the world, both to **angels and to men**.

Because they were not suffering...
Christian Kings/Queens of Corinth saw Paul/Apollos as pathetic spectacles

Spectacle: Lit. Theater/Public Humiliation
As if they were at the movies just watching Paul/Apollos...

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but **you are wise in Christ!** We are weak, but **you are strong!** You are distinguished, but **we are dishonored!** 11 To the present hour we both **hunger and thirst**, and we are **poorly clothed**, and **beaten**, and **homeless**. 12 And **we labor**, working with our own hands. Being **reviled**, **we bless**; being **persecuted**, **we endure**; 13 being **defamed**, **we entreat**. We have been **made as the filth of the world**, the offscouring of all things until now.

- Paul got a little excited sometimes

Acts 26:24 [Festus to Paul] ... with a loud voice, **"Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"**

- Paul employs Sarcasm and yet reminds them...

As you attempt to damage our reputation...
We will continue to Entreat/Exhort/Encourage and **suffer as Jesus did...**

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

III. Paul's Paternal Care

14 I do not write these things to shame you, but as my **beloved children I warn you**. 15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus **I have begotten you** through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you, **imitate me**.

Not to shame but to warn
Imitate me! All the things you consider weak/foolish
These are the things that validate us as True Servants/Faithful Stewards

- Hungry/Thirsty
- Poorly clothed
- Beaten/Homeless
- Laboring/Reviled/Persecuted all for Christ's sake....

Matthew 16:24 "If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me**."

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

The new church in Corinth watched Paul for 18 Months
Paul became their Spiritual father in the Lord as he was to Timothy

17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful **son in the Lord**, who will **remind you of my ways in Christ**, as I teach everywhere in every church.

Divisions/Schisms needed to be dealt with
Paul sends Faithful son Timothy

Church is now torn apart/useless: Divisions/Schisms

1 Corinthians 1:10b ...speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be **perfectly joined** together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Timothy: Help the Torn Apart to be Perfectly Joined
IOWs Reset what is now Disjointed

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Timothy: Prime the Pump *before I arrive...*

18 Now some are **puffed up**, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But **I will come** to you shortly, **if the Lord wills**, and **I will know**, not the word of those who are **puffed up**, but the power [or lack of it] .

- **Puffed up:** Arrogant peanut gallery
- **I will be coming:**

If the LORD wills...

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "**If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.**" 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. **All such boasting is evil.**

- Paul calls them out...

Talk is Cheap...Costs Nothing...Sacrifices Nothing
Put your money where your mouth is...

20 For the **kingdom of God is not in word but in power.**

Paul's warning is God's warning
Sent chills down the backs of big mouths

1 Thessalonians 1:5 ...our gospel did not come to you in word only, **but also in power**, and in the **Holy Spirit** and in **much assurance...**

1 Corinthians 2:4 ...my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power...**

21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in **love and a spirit of gentleness?**

Timothy will let me know what I should be prepared to do
Redirect Arrogance to Correct or Receive Repentance to Restore
Kick some spiritual butt...? Maybe....

1 Corinthians 5

Jesus

I. Immorality Defiles the Church

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! 2 And you are **puffed up**, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed **might be taken away from among you**. 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, **have already judged** (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 **deliver such a one to Satan** for the destruction of the flesh, **that his spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Proverbs 23:13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. 14 You shall beat him with a rod, And **deliver his soul from hell.**

Presumptuous/Unrepentant sin? Deliver them to Satan
God uses Satan to Discipline his kids

Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon! Indeed, **Satan has asked for you** that he may sift you as wheat. [I said okay]

1 Timothy 1:20 ...Hymenaeus and Alexander, [Paul] **delivered to Satan** that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Rather than grieving this sin against Jesus Christ...
You embrace the sinners with a fist bump...Puffed up/proud to be so tolerant

6 Your **glorying is not good**. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

- Leaven that spreads corruption:
 1. Bad Doctrine: Leaven of Pharisees

2. Sin: Highly contagious if left untreated...

2 Timothy 2:17 [Bad doctrine] And **their message will spread like cancer**. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort [see *above* 1 Tim 1:20]

Here gross sexual sin likened to leaven's putrefying corruption
Man and stepmother in sexual relationship...Welcomed by the church

7 Therefore **purge out the old leaven**, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened.

Rather than cutting out the cancer...Leave it to spread
Purge it out...The church is to be holy. The sin is against Jesus Himself...

7b ...For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Paul's connection between the purity of Passover and the Christian life is not a strange stretch. Jesus is in fact our Passover Lamb, whose blood was shed that the judgment of God might pass over us. So, we are to live in the purity that Passover speaks of. Our Christian lives are to be marked by the same things which characterized Passover: Salvation, Liberation, Joy, Plenty, and Purity from leaven/sin. [Guzik]

- A healthy body is able to purge itself of sin

Communion w/in the church welcoming the son/stepmom?
Sideshow for the Corinthians: Focus off Jesus on unrepentant sinners/Mocking His sacrifice

II. Immorality Must Be Judged

9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

Paul's first letter to Corinth was lost
Paul warned them of the very thing they are doing. IOWs They already knew better

- Continued to warn them after **this letter**

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

Ephesians 5:11 ...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 ...we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly...

Turn them over to Satan
They will repent or God will destroy those who defiled His Temple [Church]

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. 12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?.”

Paul already warned the church of God in Corinth
Remove/Do not keep company with, those calling themselves believers who refuse to repent

- Do not keep company: gr. soon-an-am-ig'-noo-mee to mix up together. Be intimate with. rt. in the midst. Among. Mingle.

Different Standards for Believers
Expect rebellion from unsaved. Mandate repentance from saved...

- Warn dividers 2x then gone
- Matthew 18
 1. Go to the unrepentant sinner
 2. Go w/two or three, then...

Matthew 18:17 And if he/she refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, **let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.**

Do you spend time/discuss spiritual things those who don't want to hear? No.
Do you have closer personal relationships with the godless than those in church? No.
Then treat disfellowshipped the same. If not, you are in sin/hindering/Preventing repentance/restoration

13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person

- C.f. Deuteronomy 13:5, 17:7-12, 19:19, 21:21-24, 24:7

God judges those outside the church. God commands us to judge those inside
v12 Spirit led leadership judges those inside/Congregation submits to leadership

Discipline is not the same as Unforgiveness. Why?
Purpose of discipline: Protection of the body/Restoration of the sinner

Pampering those in sin is not loving them *but loving yourself as the tolerant one*
It is sin to hinder Repentance/Restoration/Eventual Refreshing. Its pride...

1 Corinthians 5:2 ...you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be **taken away from among you.**

- After being removed these two repented/returned to the church/Fully restored 2 Cor. 2
- C.f. YouTube Channel Maintaining a Healthy Church