

# Father's Day

1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 | June 20, 2021

# Pitfalls for Fathers

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- Mad Dad – venting our anger “sideways” at our kids

When one of you says, “I am a follower of Paul,” and another says, “I follow Apollos,” aren’t you acting just like people of the world?

Fans to Servants

No one can lay any  
foundation other than  
the one we already  
have – Jesus Christ.

Sages to Fools

For the Kingdom of  
God is not just a lot  
of talk; it is living by  
God's power.

Academics to Examples

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (1 of 13)

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world?

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (2 of 13)

After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (3 of 13)

Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (4 of 13)

Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (5 of 13)

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say,

“He traps the wise in the snare of their own cleverness.”

And again,

“The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise; he knows they are worthless.”

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (6 of 13)

So don't boast about following a particular human leader. For everything belongs to you—whether Paul or Apollos or Peter, or the world, or life and death, or the present and the future. Everything belongs to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (7 of 13)

So look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ who have been put in charge of explaining God's mysteries. Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful. As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (8 of 13)

So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (9 of 13)

Dear brothers and sisters, I have used Apollos and myself to illustrate what I've been saying. If you pay attention to what I have quoted from the Scriptures, you won't be proud of one of your leaders at the expense of another. For what gives you the right to make such a judgment? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (10 of 13)

You think you already have everything you need. You think you are already rich. You have begun to reign in God's kingdom without us! I wish you really were reigning already, for then we would be reigning with you. Instead, I sometimes think God has put us apostles on display, like prisoners of war at the end of a victor's parade, condemned to die. We have become a spectacle to the entire world—to people and angels alike.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (11 of 13)

Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools, but you claim to be so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are so powerful! You are honored, but we are ridiculed. Even now we go hungry and thirsty, and we don't have enough clothes to keep warm. We are often beaten and have no home. We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us. We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash—right up to the present moment.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (12 of 13)

I am not writing these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children. For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. So I urge you to imitate me.

That's why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus, just as I teach in all the churches wherever I go.

# 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:21 (13 of 13)

Some of you have become arrogant, thinking I will not visit you again. But I will come—and soon—if the Lord lets me, and then I'll find out whether these arrogant people just give pretentious speeches or whether they really have God's power. For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power. Which do you choose? Should I come with a rod to punish you, or should I come with love and a gentle spirit?

Servant  
Fool  
Example

# Servant

We are only God's servants  
through whom you believed  
the Good News.

# Servant

It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.



# Fool

Our dedication to Christ  
makes us look like fools.

# Fool

The fire will show if a  
person's work has any value.



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# Example

For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. So I urge you to imitate me.

# Example

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# Christ

- Our master as servants
  - Our fixation as fools
  - Our example as examples
- 

*Our hope, and our hope for  
our children*

# Questions to ask your kids:

- What negative roles do you need God to help me put off?
- How do you see me living out the roles of servant, fool, and example?