

# Small Group Study Questions

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## *Entrusted*

1 Corinthians 4:1-13

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### Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

The two words Paul uses to describe his role are servant and steward. The Greek word translated servant is "hyperetas", which is literally 'under-rower'. On a big galley ship, this person reports to the master rower and does what he is told without question.

A steward was the manager of a household. "In relation to the master of the house, the steward was a slave, in relation to the other slaves, the steward was a master."

What do these two definitions tell you about what Paul is communicating in vs. 1-2?

What is the difference between a steward and a servant (if any)? (See 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Luke 12:42; 2 Corinthians 6:4)

What does it mean to be a steward of the mysteries of God? (see Ephesians 3:6, Luke 8:10)

Are we stewards today and if so, of what? How are we doing fulfilling the role of stewards that God has given us?

Paul indicates that he is not concerned with the judgement of the Corinthians, so they were apparently passing some sort of judgement on him. How ought we view and treat our pastors in the church?

Can, or should, every Christian today have the same attitude as Paul? Should we have no or little regard for what other Christians think about us? Why or why not? What is the distinction made in these verses? (See 1 Corinthians 5:12-13, Matt 7:1-5, Roman 14:1-5)

Why is it so easy to seek out the affirmation of others? In what ways are you most susceptible to seek the approval of others instead of seeking God's approval?

In the opposite regard, are you ever tempted to serve in order to receive affirmation from others, to look spiritually mature or even make yourself feel good? How about judging other's motives? How does verse 5 highlight that these things are not so wise?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 4:6 - 13**

Paul is pointing out some major issues the Corinthians have in these verses. What problem he is identifying in vs. 6-7?

What is Paul saying in vs. 8 and 10? Is he being literal? (see Revelations 3:17)

Contrast these verses (Philippians 2:5-11 vs. Isaiah 14:12-15) - What do these verses tell you about who Paul was emulating and who the Corinthians unwittingly were? How do these verses serve as a challenge and a warning for us today?

Referring back to 1 Corinthians 3: 4-5, what is Paul showing the Corinthians about what it really means to follow him, Apollos and Cephas?