

When Church Becomes Messy: First Corinthians

7 – A View Of God’s Servants (1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-21)

I. Faithful Servants (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

A. The Proper View of God’s Servants (1 Corinthians 4:1)

- Paul points out that he and Apollos are simply just servants of Christ.
- They are stewards of the message of the gospel.

B. The Responsibility of a Servant (1 Corinthians 4:2)

- As stewards of the gospel, they must be faithful to the task.

C. The True Measure of the Servant (1 Corinthians 4:3-4)

- God’s servants cannot be judged by human standards or wisdom.
- God’s servants will ultimately be judged by God.

D. The True Judgment (1 Corinthians 4:5)

- God is the only one who can judge and reward the nature of one’s ministry.

II. True Apostleship (1 Corinthians 4:6-13)

A. The Application (1 Corinthians 4:6)

- Just as human wisdom cannot judge ministry, it should not be used to judge each other.

B. The Futility of Boasting (1 Corinthians 4:7)

- Each one has no basis for boasting, since God is the source of what we have.

C. Spiritual Blindness (1 Corinthians 4:8)

- Paul points out that they think that they are spiritually mature.

D. The Apostles’ True Condition (1 Corinthians 4:9-13)

- Paul compares his current situation to their boasting.
- Paul points out that they, as apostles, have endured the rejection of the world.

III. The Challenge (1 Corinthians 4:14-21)

A. The Purpose in Writing (1 Corinthians 4:14)

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- Paul is not writing them to bring shame, but to warn them.

B. Paul's Relationship to Them (1 Corinthians 4:15)

- While they have many teachers, he is their only spiritual father.

C. Paul's Encouragement (1 Corinthians 4:16)

- Paul tells them to follow his example of humility.

D. The Purpose of Timothy's Visit (1 Corinthians 4:17)

- Timothy was sent to remind them of Paul's teachings.

E. The Prideful Actions of Some (1 Corinthians 4:18)

- Some arrogantly felt that Paul would never visit them again.

F. Paul's Future Visit (1 Corinthians 4:19-21)

1. Paul's Desire to Visit (1 Corinthians 4:19)

- Paul states that he plans to visit them and deal with the arrogant.

2. True Spirituality (1 Corinthians 4:20)

- The kingdom of God is not just talk, but living in the power of God.

3. The Manner of His Visit (1 Corinthians 4:21)

- It is not a question when Paul will come, but how he will come.
- The Corinthians will determine the nature of his visit.