

# 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

1. The subtitle for this chapter in my bible calls it “The Nature of True Apostleship”. What is the difference between an apostle of God and a disciple of God?
2. In verse 1, The ESV translation uses the word “steward” in place of “those entrusted”. What does it mean to be a “steward of the mysteries of God”?
3. What does Paul mean in verse 3?
  - a. Aren't we supposed to examine ourselves?
4. In verse 4, Paul says “For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted”. Pretty radical statement considering his life before his conversion. What do you think he means by this?
5. In verse 5, Paul shows us the attitude we should have toward others. But does this mean we are never supposed to tell someone else they are “wrong”? Wouldn't that be judging them?
6. Verse 6: What does it mean to “go beyond what is written”?
7. Why does Paul ask the Corinthians the questions within verse 7?
8. Verse 8: “You have begun to reign...How I wish that you really had begun to reign”
  - a. What does he mean by this?
  - b. Why does Paul say this to the Corinthians?
9. In verses 10-13, Paul uses some pretty surprising language. He almost sounds as if he's boasting of his hardships. What point could he be making here? (**Hint:** 1 Cor. 1: 27-29)

And finally, leave here this morning with an excellent memory verse:

**1 Cor. 4:20 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power”**

## The Nature of True Apostleship

**4** This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. <sup>2</sup>Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. <sup>3</sup>I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

<sup>6</sup>Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. <sup>7</sup>For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

<sup>8</sup>Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign—and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you! <sup>9</sup>For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. <sup>10</sup>We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! <sup>11</sup>To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. <sup>12</sup>We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; <sup>13</sup>when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment.