

1 CORINTHIANS 4 – FOOLS FOR CHRIST

4:1

- Servant: a rower, an underling, attendant, helper. This word was used commonly to refer to those who pulled the oars on the lower deck of a galley.
- Stewards: Refers to those entrusted to manage their master's household - a house distributor. These servants and freedman were trusted to manage the master's estate, especially his financial affairs. They had authority over other servants or slaves of a family to assign duties - along with the management of general affairs and accounts (Joseph serving in Egypt).
- "Paul and Apollos were free servants of Christ, fully responsible to him, and not to the Corinthians."
- Mysteries of God - Ephesians 3:6

4:2-7

- "Paul considers himself a servant of God and steward of God's work, he must concern himself with gaining God's approval, not people's approval."
- V4-5 - "What he is saying is that his conscience cannot declare his ministry to be perfectly faithful and therefore make him innocent of any wrongdoing in his service." Matthew 7:21-23; James 1:14-17
- Christianity Today *AFTER THE AFFAIR: A WIFE'S STORY: A pastor's wife describes the impact of her husband's adultery* by Heather Bryce - <http://ow.ly/12K530gvcJn>
- V6 - Paul uses a word meaning "to figuratively apply" (which can also mean literally to be transfigured) - When he says he has figuratively applied this things, he's referring back to verse 1 and the use of the terms servant and steward.
- V7 - The novice masquerading as the master while reaping all the credit. John 3:27; Romans 12:3; Ephesians 4:11-13

4:8-14

- V8 - "kings" and "rulers" - "The statements in this verse are ironic. Paul contrasts himself with the believers in Corinth to expose the absurdity and pride of their behavior. They cannot credit themselves for their wisdom, wealth, or status."

- V9 - Spectacle = theatre. John MacArthur, "When a Roman general won a major victory it was celebrated by what was called a triumph. The general would enter the city in great military splendor, leading his officers and troops. Behind those would come a group of prisoners in chains, with the conquered king and his officers prominently displayed for all to see and mock. The prisoners were under the sentence of death and would be taken to the arena to fight wild beasts. That is the spectacle to which Paul refers."
- V10 - Fools for Christ. "Strength that depends on itself will become weakness. Weakness that depends on God will become strength. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10." As Christians we are not popular with the world when we live with the Bible as our authority - Matthew 5:3-11.

Qualities of Genuine Faith - v9-13

Be willing to be: considered foolish; be weak; without honor; hungry; thirsty; poorly clothed; treated roughly; homeless; despised; persecuted; slandered; scum.

Be willing to: toil; bless; endure; reconcile.

4:17-21

- "Be imitators/mimic." Is your life worth imitating? What's holding you back from living the kind of life in Christ that could be imitated and looked to?
- V15 - Tutors were to take care of the children and bring them to their studies when the father wasn't available to do so. As a child, you will in general look up to you father much more than you will a servant employed by your father. As a father, it is you desire that your children take after and imitate you, not your employee.
- V19-20 - Not in word but power.
 - Power = ability to perform
 - 1 Cor 2:2-5; Romans 15:18-19A; 1 Thess 1:5
- V21 - "a rod or with love and gentleness." Hebrews 12:5-11 - The discipline of God of the Father