

1 Corinthians Chapter 4

- Remind one another of the context of Corinth: A divided church, fawning over 'super' leaders. Read Passage.

- In Vs. 3 Paul says I will not be judged by you. What are some of the pitfalls of living a life driven by what other people think of you? (see below for some ideas you could expand on)
 - o We may change our morals to fit in

 - o Because people are fickle and it is exhausting keeping up with their demands. (The lesson of King Saul).

- Paul then goes as far as saying I won't even judge myself! Why?
 - o How good are you at justifying things you know are wrong when you want to? "my conscience is clear but that does not make me innocent" vs. 4

 - o By what standards do we judge ourselves? In comparison to others? What can this end up leading to?

 - o It can lead to an obsession with self. Does this mean we should never be open to critique or feedback? Why/not?

- Have you heard the phrase "Only God can judge me" What do you think people mean by it in our culture? What do you think Paul meant when saying it?

- 4:1 Rather, we should be regarded as Servants and Stewards. What did Paul mean by these two ideas and why would he want to be viewed like this? You may want to look at the parable in Matthew 25:14-30

- Vs. 8-12 Paul's pastoral tactics. Is Paul being mean, unloving or unpastoral in his sarcasm in these verses? What does it tell us about how we help disciple people?

- How do we know when we are getting it right/wrong as leaders, parents, bosses etc.
 - o Is it in love? Like a father/mother?
 - o Is it for their good or my power/control?
 - o Is it because I'm worried about my reputation or Christ's reputation?