

Servanthood & Stewardship

I Corinthians 4 | Week Three | Participant Guide

Preparing for the Session

Read: I Corinthians 4:1-21

Memorize: *“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”*

I Cor. 4:1, 2

Looking at the Text

4:1-5

1. Paul begins by stating that we are both “servants” and “stewards.” Who do we serve? How are we stewards?

2. What does Paul say about judgment in this passage?

4:6-13

3. What does the phrase “not to go beyond what is written” mean? How do you think not going “beyond what is written” can help us in our Christian lives?

4. Verses 12 and 13 speak about being “reviled,” “persecuted,” and “slandered.” Why do you think the world sometimes treats Christians like this? What should our response be?

4:14-17

5. Paul encourages the Corinthians to imitate those who serve as Christian fathers. How can this help us?

4:18-21

6. Define the word “arrogant.” Given the context of these verses, what does Paul think of arrogance?

7. Given your academic pursuits, how might you fall into a form of arrogance? What can you do to avoid becoming arrogant?

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- 2 | Wisdom of Man & Power of God
- 3 | Servanthood & Stewardship
- 4 | Sex, Holiness, and Worship
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- 6 | Knowledge, Idolatry, & Surrender
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- 10 | Spiritual Gifts & The Church
- 11 | The Resurrection & The End

“Paul urged the Corinthians to think of him, Peter, and Apollos as mere servants of Christ entrusted with the secret things of God ... A servant does what his master tells him to do. We must do what God tells us to do in the Bible and through his Holy Spirit.”

Life Application Study Bible

“Each day God presents us with needs and opportunities that challenge us to do what we know is right.”

Life Application Study Bible

Humility is not servitude. It is not a refusal to admit that you have insight and that you have something to offer. To be humble requires that you admit that you do have things to bring to the discussion. It also requires that you realize that there is much to learn from your peers, much to learn from your students, much to learn from the people you disagree with most, and much to learn from past generations. Greg Ganssle, Yale
Cultivating Essential Virtues for Christian Scholars