

# 1 CORINTHIANS

## 4:1-9 | STUDY GUIDE

### Judge

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:1**, "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." (ESV)

- Servants
  - ὑπηρέτης = Servant or "Under-rower"
    - Not a slave, but a servant who follows orders and is clearly subordinate
- Stewards
  - οἰκονόμος = Steward
    - The slave in charge of managing a household
    - Included everything from overseeing children to finances
  - We are to follow God explicitly and devote ourselves to protecting and distributing the mysteries of God
    - Stewards don't own the property they manage, but their primary quality is that they be found faithful

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:3**, "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself." (ESV)

- Judge = ἀνακρίνω
  - "To examine" or investigate
- The Corinthians were essentially ashamed of Paul because he wasn't "impressive" enough to the society around them Paul is basically saying "your opinion doesn't matter, and frankly neither does mine"

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**1 CORINTHIANS 4:4-5**, "For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God." (ESV)

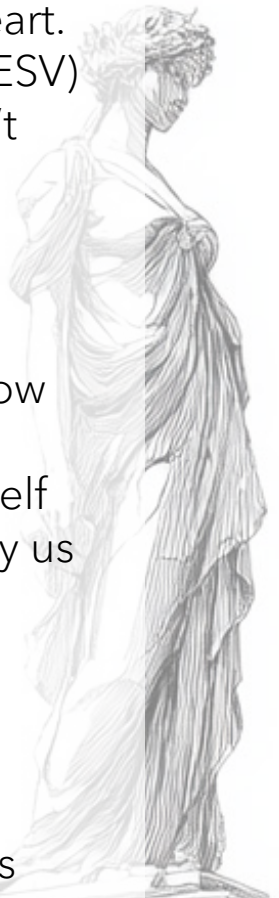
- Just because I don't see something as an issue, doesn't mean it's not
  - Paul doesn't claim to have perfect insight
  - That's why we rely on God
- God looks at the heart
  - "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!" (Psalm 139:23, ESV)

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:6**, "I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another." (ESV)

- What is written?
  - The Corinthians are following popular teachers like celebrities and polluting the gospel
  - Just because something sounds good, doesn't mean it's true

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:7**, "For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" (ESV)

- Pride problems
- Everything we are, everything we've done, is only because of God



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- Paul's rebuke is clear: they aren't giving glory to God for the very knowledge of salvation they claim makes them superior

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9**, "Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men." (ESV)

- Paul's letter takes a turn; he admonishes the church for how they have treated him and the apostles
  - They act like kings already reigning and treat the apostles as though they are ashamed of them
    - Remember: Paul lives under constant persecution, rejection, and threat of death
    - Revisit in 2 Corinthians, chapter 11
  - Emotional plea that uses graphic illustration
    - Either a conquering general parading his captives, or gladiators in the arena saluting before they must die
      - This degradation and humiliation the utmost horror of the Corinthians

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Timothy Brookins, *Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy*, Craig Keener, *1-2 Corinthians*, Bruce W. Winter, *After Paul Left Corinth*, N.T. Wright, *The New Testament in Its World*, Zondervan, *Archeological Study Bible*, *Strong's Concordance*