

I Corinthians 4:1-7 You Might Be Pleasantly Surprised 11/10/2024

Some of the Corinthians were prideful and competitive with each other in the worst possible way.

Point today? Our evaluation of other Christians doesn't have enough information in it to accurately judge the worth of an individual at the level of motive. You also do not have enough information on yourself to boast on yourself, or run yourself down.

We seem so sure why someone did a certain thing, and even what they were thinking. It is part of the old nature; being a control-freak. So don't do it.

TEXT: 4:1-7 *****

Paul's concern is that the judgements we make toward each other as Christians will have deadly effects of the church as a whole. It has murdered fellowship for years.

4:1 "servants" (hyperetai) – Under rowers The lower rowers of a large ship. Coordination with others and focus on your part is very important as an under rower. If you make frequent trips to the top side just to look around, to make sure everybody is rowing, even though now the ship is now slowing down. Stay too long up top, and you begin to think you are the captain!

If you keep your head down and faithfully row you can be a part of something bigger than yourself.

However, if you never got to see the top deck you might wonder if you were doing any good at all.

All we need to know? Is the captain still on deck? Does he lock eyes with me sometimes and give to me that assuring look? Wouldn't that be nice if that happened in this moment!

You can get puffed up and think you really know how it all works. Be honest, you don't! Don't be depressed either!

We don't know what God knows. Can you live with that?

"stewards" To the master a slave; to the other slaves an overseer.

4:2 "stewards of the mysteries" To proclaim the unblemished, clear facts of the gospel and not to give their own views! **2:6-8**

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4:3-4 “Should be examined”- Technical term for the preliminary hearing (judging before the final day of the judgement seat of Christ, either by your self-exam or by others) before the main trial (which can only be done by Christ).

Ex. Romans 14:4,10

It is impossible to rightly assess even one’s own achievements, how much less another brother or sister in Christ. Praising yourself or condemning yourself seems an odd thing in view of what we don’t know about ourselves or others.

The real key is the “motive” of our service!

4:5 What is your motive?

Ex. Matthew 25: 34-40 They were so focused on pleasing Christ that self-righteous deeds to compare themselves to others did not enter their mind. Humility in action! MOTIVE correct!

Ex. Matthew 7:21-23 All the external marks of religion, but never knew the One they said they were serving. Pride and keeping record of their self-righteous deeds. MOTIVE incorrect!

“Each man’s praise” - Paul means for us to be happy about this evaluation of Christian service! You may be pleasantly surprised with what He has to say to you on that day. You may feel like you tried, but probably messed it all up. Never quit sure; maybe not good enough. Your evaluation may be way off.

4:6 When the motive is self-serving you will always want to, “go beyond what is written.”

Ex. Proverbs 30:5

Ex. II John 9

4:7 The prideful comparison is deadly! All about living in Grace!

Ex. When you show somebody a gift you have, that was given to you by a dear friend, do you talk about how good you were to motivate that friend to give you that gift? No you say, “Yea, it is a wonderful gift, I could never deserve anything like this. Do you have a few minutes so I can tell you about the person who gave me this gift?”

Ex. Andre Crouch song-“I don’t know why Jesus loved me; I don’t know why He cared; I don’t know why He sacrificed His life, Oh but I am glad, so glad He did!”