

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "Straight Talk about Ministry" (Part 2)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, November 8, 2020

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 4:8-13 -

Note: Because Paul loved the Corinthians, he was willing to say these kinds of hard things!

I. SPEAKING HARD THINGS FOR THE *GLORY OF GOD AND GOOD OF THE CHURCH*

A. Paul is like a compassionate father who deeply loves his children. (verses 14-17)

Note: Your family will (should be willing to!) tell you the truth when no one else will.

1) Paul explains the unique role he was blessed to play in their spiritual lives.

Note: Paul shows that he's committed to his spiritual family even when the relationship is difficult.

What about Matthew 23:8-12?

Note: Paul was NOT taking credit for the Corinthians' salvation. He knew that it was in Christ and through the Gospel that they possessed spiritual life.

1 Peter 1:23 -

2) We cannot overemphasize the importance of both explanation and example!

Philippians 3:17 -

3) Paul's teaching and practice was consistent and is applicable everywhere, for every church.

Note: What we read in 1st Corinthians is important and applicable for us today!

Hebrews 4:12 -

B. Paul is like a courageous father who defends his family. (verses 18-20)

- 1) As followers of Christ, we should NOT be intimidated by boastful, arrogant people.

- 2) The kingdom of God is a present reality; we are citizens of Christ's kingdom right now, and we are to live according to His will, His grace, and His power.

C. Paul is like a wise father who is willing to discipline when necessary. (verse 21)

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.” (Gal. 6:7)

“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.” (3 John 4)

“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. According to verse 14, why did Paul write? What was his goal and objective?
2. In what way was Paul a “father” to the Corinthians? Is Paul’s writing this a violation of Matt 23:8-12?
3. What does verse 17 reveal about the consistency of Paul’s teaching? How is this important, relevant, and an encouragement for us today?
4. Why was Paul bold and courageous towards those who were opposing him? What was Paul resting in and relying upon? How should this help encourage you today?
5. How is the kingdom of God both a present reality and a future certainty that we look forward to?
6. How can you personally learn from, imitate, and follow Paul’s example in chapter 4?