

SOME QUICK OBSERVATIONS

(a) Puffed up

(b) Irony

(c) Reason

FOCUS ON VERSES 1-5

(1) How should we view preachers and teachers of the Word?



(2) What is their chief responsibility? What does this mean for the life and service of the church?

- (3) Who is their ultimate evaluator, and why? How should this simple truth affect us?

FOCUS ON VERSES 6-13

- (1) What, do you think, is Paul seeking to convey in **verse 8**?
- (2) What was and is the condition of the apostles as they minister in this world?
- (3) What is the message Paul wants to convey in these 8 verses?

FOCUS ON VERSES 14-21

- (1) What's the purpose of Paul in writing these things to the Corinthian Christians?

- (2) What's the purpose of Paul in sending Timothy to the Corinthian Christians?

- (3) How did Paul become the father of these Corinthian Christians? Can the same be said of you today?

- (4) As a father of these Christians, what else did Paul do?



What changes must be made in your life so that you can say these words safely?



How is this a reflection of the methods of Christ?

- (5) In **verse 21**, Paul asked the Corinthian Christians to choose between two options. What are they? Why does he do this?

SOME CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

(a) Message

(b) Method

APPENDIX A

1 Corinthians 4 (English Standard Version)

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But 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. ⁴For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore 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.

⁶I 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. ⁷For 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?

⁸Already 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! ⁹For 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. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹²and we labor, working with our

own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

¹⁴I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. ¹⁸Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?