

1Cor 4:6-21

Nov 11, 2018

Divisions are caused by Pride 1Cor 4:6-13

1Cor 4:6-13 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. 7 For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 8 You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you. 9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. 11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; 12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; 13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

The Corinthians were walking in pride and not in humility

They had become arrogant of one against the other.

Arrogant = to take pride (1Cor 4:18-19; 5:2; 8:1; 13:4)

They saw themselves as superior v. 7, and self-sufficient vs. 8, 10.

"not to exceed what is written"; the word of God, - which condemns all pride.

Portrait of the true preacher:

He includes himself in his warnings and exhortations.

He uses the word we and seldom uses the word you;

He does not speak down to men;

He speaks as one who sits where they sit as a man of like passions with them.

His speech is not of condemnation but of pleading, not of criticism but of compassion.

Grace

All that we have is received by the grace of God, and not obtained by self-effort.

Portrait of a Roman General's Triumph

When he had won a great victory, he would parade his victorious army through the streets of the city with all the trophies that he had won. At the parade's end came a little group of captives, condemned to death; they were being taken to the arena to fight with the wild beast.

I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.

To this present hour - God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men - even until now.

Comparison between them and the apostles:

| Corinthians | Apostles |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| You are already filled | We are hungry and thirsty |
| You have already become rich | We are poorly clothed |
| You have become kings | We are roughly treated |
| You are prudent in Christ | We are fools for Christ's sake |
| You are strong | We are weak |
| You are distinguished | We are without honor |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------------|
| | We are homeless |
| | We toil, working with our own hands |
| | When we are reviled, we bless |
| | When we are persecuted, we endure |
| | When we are slandered, we try to conciliate |
| | We have become as the scum of the world |
| | We have become the dregs of all things |

A father's love 1Cor 4:14-21

1Cor 4:14-21 I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. 16 Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me. 17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church. 18 Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. 21 What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

Paul's motivation in writing this letter

not to shame = Feelings associated with failure, public exposure, disgrace, embarrassment, social rejection, ridicule, and dishonor.

Shame was a core value in the ancient world; shame was connected to one's public reputation. It refers to a person's internal experience of disgrace, fearing that others will see how he has dishonored him/herself, often resulting in a preventative attitude that one must remain out of sight in order to avoid being disgraced.

but to admonish (noutheteo) = to warn, admonish, exhort. It is used to express the admonition which a father gives to his children. It occurs 8 times in the NT (Ac 20:31; Rom 15:14; 1Cor 4:14; Col 1:28; 3:16; 1Thes 5:12, 14; 2Thes 3:15)

3 basic elements of Nouthetic confrontation (Jay E Adams)

- 1) The purpose of nouthetic confrontation is to affect personality and behavioral change.
- 2) Nouthetic confrontation is training by the word of encouragement.
- 3) Nouthetic confrontation is intended to benefit the hearer.

Tutors (paidagogos) = The tutor was an old, trusted slave who was the personal attendant of the boy, who daily took the child to school and home again, heard him recite his 'lines', trained him in moral matters and good manners and tried to make a man of him.

I became your father through the gospel ... be imitators of me.

Paul was responsible for the initial conversions in the city of Corinth (Ac 18:4-11)

He wants them to imitate him so that they may in this way learn to imitate Christ. (1Cor 11:1; Gal 4:12; Phil 3:17; 1Thes 1:6; 2Thes 3:7-9)

I have sent to you Timothy ... he will remind you of my ways

They were not deliberately rebelling, they simply have forgotten.

The kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.

The kingdom of God refers to the reign of God expressed in the lives of His people. Paul urges the Corinthian believers to live according to the value system of God's kingdom, which prizes powerful deeds more than persuasive speech.

The gospel enables God's people with His power to do His will
(Rom 1:16; 14:17; 15:19; Col 1:13; 1Thes 1:5; 2:12).

Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

The contrast between faithful and faithless stewards (1Cor 4:1-13)

The faithless steward

They are filled with pride (4:6-7).
They are presumptuous (4:8).
They are wise in their own eyes (4:10).
They are physically strong (4:10).
They are well thought of by the world (4:10).

The faithful steward

They possess a clear conscience (4:1-4).
They don't judge others (4:5).
They are willing to be criticized (4:9).
They are willing to be a fool (4:10).
They are content with being weak (4:10).
They are willing to be laughed at by the world (4:10).
They are willing to be hungry, thirsty, and without warm clothes (4:11).
They are willing to be brutally treated and homeless (4:11).
They are acquainted with hard work (4:12).
They bless their enemies (4:12-13).
They are willing to be looked at as the world's garbage (4:13).

References used in this study:

The Letters to the Corinthians; by William Barclay
Tyndale New Testament Commentary; by Leon Morris
The Outline Bible
Faithlife Study Bible
The complete word study dictionary
The Lexham Bible Dictionary
Competent to Counsel; by Jay E Adams