

## Being Found Faithful

I Cor 4: 1-21

6/3/01

### Intro



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In Chapter three Paul was teaching them about three different types of people; natural man, the carnal Christian, and the spiritual Christian. Obviously, Paul wants them to become spiritual. They were acting carnal and he was going for change.

In chapter four, Paul gives us all some insight into the keys to becoming a spiritual man (the Spirit of God having the priority in our lives). This is an opportunity for us to receive from God's words and we ourselves become changed.

These are keys to becoming a spiritual man of God.

### **I. Being found faithful.**

Vs 1

#### A. We are **servants** of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God.

- The word for **servant** was originally used for someone who would row oars in the belly of a ship. (*In other words, they were sent by Christ to serve the church.*)
- **Stewards** were people were in charge of the affairs of their master.
- They were stewards of the mysteries of God. The revealing of God's revelations.

#### B. We are asked to be faithful to what God has called us to do.

Vs 2

- They were judging Paul according to his speaking ability. Paul says it's about faithfulness.

**Illus-** Senator Hatfield once toured the "House of Dying" in Calcutta. At one point he asks, "How can you carry such a load and not be crushed by it?" "My dear Senator," she replied, "I am not called to be **successful**, I am called to be **faithful**."

### **II. Let God Be the One Who Examines Us.**

Vs 6-7

#### A. Some live as though others were their examiners.

- This is to live in fear of other people's opinions.

#### B. Some live as though they were their own examiners.

- This is to live in constant self-condemnation. A very debilitating way to live.

**Illus-**There's something very freeing in doing your best and committing the rest to the Lord.

#### C. We should live as those examined by God.

- What God thinks should be the most important of all.

Vs 5                    D. God examines the motives of the heart.

- To God, this is the most important part.

***Illus-*** When Jordi finally agreed to have a relationship with me, she gave me a scripture, “All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but God weighs the motives of the heart.” Prov 16:2

**III. We Have Received Everything From God.**

Vs 7

A. We shouldn't act like we didn't, becoming arrogant.

***Illus-*** Sometimes when I do something right, I react as though it was all about me.

B. God should get the credit for all we do.

C. The right attitude allows us to react to life differently.

- Vs 12-13
- When reviled, we can bless.
  - When persecuted, we can endure
  - When slandered, we try to conciliate.

**Conclusion**

**The truth about who we really are is found not in what we say about ourselves, but in what we do. The Kingdom of God consists in *power - change*. Jonathan's sermon made a powerful point. How much does Christ affect us?**