

Questions

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-11. What is the primary concern that dominates Paul's teaching throughout the first four chapters of First Corinthians? In general terms, how does Paul address this issue (i.e. What does he keep focusing on in chaps 1-4)?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 4:3-5. Paul is not saying that all forms of judgment are wrong (cf. 1 Cor. 5:3-5). But, based on 4:3-5, what kind of judging is wrong? Do you ever struggle with making sinful judgments about others? Why is it important that we learn to trust God's ultimate judgment?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 4:6. How does this verse show Paul *not* making a sinful assessment of his readers? In what way(s) were the arrogant ones in Corinth stepping outside of the boundaries of Scripture?
4. How would you characterize Paul's description of the Lord's servants in 1 Corinthians 4:9-13? Why do you think most of us do not experience anything like this description? Is it possible that our imitation of Christ is more muted than we'd like to think?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 4:20. How does this verse serve to summarize the thrust of Paul's argument since 1:18?
6. Having studied these chapters, are you convinced that God works powerfully through the proclamation of His gospel, even if your speech is not eloquent? In what way(s) can you better show dependence on God to work through your speaking of His gospel?

Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.

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1 Corinthians

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A Matter of Power

1 Corinthians 4:1-21

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor

June 1, 2025

Our study of First Corinthians will take a break after today. We'll pick back up with chapter 5 on July 13, after the summer Plugging In break.

In First Corinthians 4, Paul described how the Corinthians were sinning in their assessment of God's servants, and then he gave three more lessons meant to humble and unify the church in Corinth.

Believers in Corinth were:

- Sinfully judging (4:1-5)
- Sinfully comparing (4:6-10)
- Slandering (4:18-19)

1. The Lord judges His servants (4:1-5)

3. The Lord empowers His servants (4:14-21)

2. The Lord humbles His servants (4:6-13)