

## 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (March 20, 2022)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

1. Paul's use of the word servant in 1 Corinthians 4:1 comes from the Greek work "*hyperetes*" which means an "under rower" who mans the lower decks; a subordinate/servant/assistant executing under official orders. What is Paul saying about the role of a servant of Christ?

2. **Regarding 1 Corinthians 4:1-2:** "Paul is a 'steward' or 'trustee' of these 'mysteries'. In that culture a 'steward' (*oikonomos*), often an educated slave, was employed to distribute money and goods within an extended household or farming establishment. Fundamental to his work, apart from competence, was a steward's faithfulness, Paul is saying that as a 'steward' he was called, above all, to be faithful in distributing to others what he had received from God."  
(1 Corinthians-Holiness and Hope of a Rescued People p. 62 by Paul Barnett)

From this quote, 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, and 1 Peter 4:10 share about the stewardship God has given you. How have you witnessed evidence of the stewardship of other believers? What is the primary requirement as a steward?

3. Paul tells the Corinthians that they should regard their leaders as "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." How does this apply to the church today? Give evidence that believers hold this regard for their spiritual leaders?

4. Why is Paul not concerned about what others think of him (1 Corinthians 4:3-5)?  
As God's servant and steward, what matters to Paul (Acts 23:1; Romans 14:4; Galatians 1:10;  
1 John 3:20-21; Colossians 3:23)?

5. What teachings regarding judging/judgement are disclosed in I Corinthians 4:3-5;  
Matthew 7:1; Romans 2:1, 16 and 14:4?

6. How has the study of 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 challenged you? liberated you? encouraged you?