

1 Corinthians 4:6-13 (March 27, 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 4:6-13

1. **Regarding Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 4:6:** "He is saying, then, that by considering what he has had to say about Apollos and himself, they will learn the scriptural idea of the subordination of man. **Uniformly the Bible elevates God.** The Corinthian emphasis on the persons of teachers meant that they were thinking too highly of men. Paul wants none of them *to be puffed up* for one, i.e. he desires that they have no feelings of pride as they contemplate the particular teacher to whom they have attached themselves. Being *puffed up* in this way in favour of one of them meant that they were *against another*.
(The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians p. 28 by Leon Morris)

The Corinthians were thinking too highly of men. According to Paul and Morris, what are the ramifications of elevating a person (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 4:6)? How can this be avoided?

2. How do the following verses give support to the rhetorical questions "What do you have that you did not receive? "Why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" (1 Corinthians 4:7):

1 Corinthians 1:3, 30-31

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

3. "‘Already filled,’ ‘already rich,’ ‘begun to rule’ expresses the distorted understanding of the Corinthians...Paul’s word ‘already’ splendidly captures what has been called ‘realized eschatology’, the belief that the future has come into the present ‘in Christ’. Yet there is a sharp tension. The kingdom has also ‘not yet’ come because Christ has ‘not yet’ come back and this is painfully evident in the corruption, sin and suffering which surrounds us, including within the church. The believer must affirm two realities, ‘already’ and ‘not yet’, and live with the tension between them."

(1 Corinthians-Holiness and Hope of a Rescued People p. 66-67 by Paul Barnett)

In what way had the Corinthian believers over emphasized the "already" but under-emphasized in the "not yet"? How do you manage to live in the "already" and the "not yet"?

4. Paul uses sarcasm to reveal how the Corinthians viewed him as opposed to themselves. How are his statements true by the world’s standard? But spiritually how are they the opposite? What is Paul implying about the Corinthians (Revelation 3:17)?

5. Comment on what God said Paul would experience as a chosen instrument (Acts 9:15-16) and how this is unfolding in "the present hour" which Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 4:9-13.

6. Where do you detect the themes of "dependence and humility" thread throughout this lesson?