

Becoming the Church
I Cor 4:1-21
“Humble Servants and Discipling Fathers”

We are farthest from who God has called us to be when we are *arrogant*. Humility and Grace defined the ministry of reconciliation and Paul is harshly, sarcastically and pointedly going to call the Corinthian church to be humble people of the word that are so contagious that multiplication takes place.

2 Aims that Paul has for Corinthian church in I Corinthians 1-4:

1. To bring _____ from _____.
2. To Re-Establish his _____, so to lead them back to spiritual _____.

Sets up his apostleship authority by reminding the people that he (and company) are _____ first! I Cor 3:21-22; I Cor 4:1.

Paul goes about accomplishing his AIM by teaching the Corinthian church what it looks like to be a people of God. Paul calls the church to be:

1. **People of the _____ . Not people of _____ .**

What is Pauls “trust” or job that he was entrusted to do by God? = Col 1:25

To present the Word of God to its Fullest - and he does not care who judges him along with way.

What does it mean to “not go beyond what is written?”

Human Wisdom:

I Cor 1:19: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise” Is. 29:14

I Cor 3:19: “For the wisdom of the world is folly with God” Job 5:13

I Cor 3:30: “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, they are futile” Ps. 94:11

God’s Wisdom:

I Cor 1:31: “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord”

I Cor 2:9: “What no eye has seen, nor ear has heard, nor heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.”

I Cor 2:16: “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”

How easily does human reasoning slip into our minds? It is easy to drift away from our foundation in the Word:

1. We _____ ourselves from regular reading of Scripture.
2. We _____ God’s Word with mans word.
3. We _____ God’s Word altogether.

2. People of _____

Paul will use irony and sarcasm for his next point. Behind this section and beneath this section is a Eschatological lining that going to be crucial to grasp.

Look at the juxtaposition of what the Corinthians believe about themselves and how Paul views himself.

You have all you want (v. 8)	We go hungry and thirsty (v. 11)
You have become rich (v. 8)	We are in rags (v. 11)
You have become kings (v. 8)	We are brutally treated and homeless and work hard (v. 11)
You are so wise in Christ (v. 10)	We have become fools for Christ (v. 10)
You are strong (v. 10)	We are weak (v. 10)
You are honored (v. 10)	We are dishonored (v. 10)

3. People of _____.

What metaphor will Paul use here: _____

The argument started in I Cor 1:10 has ended... but Paul is just getting started.

He gives a gentle, yet harsh warning to the arrogant believers in Corinth: To be like **Fathers!**

2 Tim 2:2:



I pray that the Holy Spirit would open our eyes to the reality of the invisible and eternal kingdom of God and that we would not continue to be duped by this temporary world and the trappings of worldly pleasure that Satan has created. That we would be people of the Word, that would constantly be immersed in its promises and instruction over us.

Today I challenge you to redefine your life, to commit to living intentionally, to make specific plans to disciple specific people and to continue that purpose and journey for the rest of your life. DO NOT WASTE the precious time that God has given you. Pour out your life for others, RUN toward the finish line, commit to making this life count.