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exception

## Small Group Notes - 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

*Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.*

This week's passage is in three parts. You may not have time to focus on all three of them or you might want to zone in especially on one of them.

### **Introduction**

The buzz words of the Corinthian culture are all over this passage - they want to be seen as wise, strong, honourable (verse 10), having all they want, becoming rich, ruling over others (verse 8).

*Question: In what ways does the culture around us admire these things? How is this shown?*

*Question: In what ways in church do our actions reveal that we also admire these values, even if we would not want to admit it?*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-13**

#### **Part 1 - 4:1-5**

*Question: When is it right, according to Scripture, to make judgements and when should Christians stop themselves from judging others?*

*Question: What difference would it make to how we think about ourselves and others if we knew ultimately that it is only God's judgement that counts?*

*Question: What difference would it make to our life together as a church, how we act and treat one another, if we knew it is only God's judgment that counts?*

*Question: Is there anything you might need to start or stop as a result of your reflections?*

#### **Part 2 - 4:6-9**

The Corinthians were becoming puffed up and boasting in the different leaders in the church, boasting in things they had been given.

*Question: In what ways are we tempted to boast (even subtly) about blessings we have received from God as if those blessings are to our credit?*

*Question: What difference would it make to our life together as a church, how we act and treat one another, if we really believed deeply that all we have received comes from God?*

*Question: Is there anything you might need to start or stop as a result of your reflections?*

### **Part 3 - 4:8-12**

The Corinthians were also becoming puffed up and boasting because they believed the final day of God's triumph had come, losing sight of the call to follow the way of the cross now.

*Question: How does Paul's picture of the Christian life make you think, feel, want to respond?*

*Question: What examples of being a 'spectacle' for Christ's sake have you heard about or experienced?*

*Question: In what ways might we need to be more willing for people to think us fools, weak or dishonourable for following Jesus?*

*Question: How should leadership in the church differ from leadership in the broader world?*

*Question: Is there anything you might need to start or stop as a result of your reflections?*

### **Conclusion**

There have been a number of challenging points in this session. Try to bring together the one or two things that God has challenged you to do/think/pray differently (individually or as a group) as a result of your reflections.

**Spend time praying for each other in response to God's word this week.**