

## Ministry of Spiritual Leaders

1 Corinthians 3:18-4:21

Chair Bible 953

**Main Idea:** Spiritual leaders and the congregation of believers must reject arrogance and humbly recognize that they are servants of Christ and stewards of the mystery of God.

### **Spiritual leaders and the congregation of believers must reject arrogance.**

*18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 21 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*

- *Luke 9:23-25*

### **Spiritual leaders and the congregation of believers must humbly recognize that they are servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**

*1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*

#### **Accountable stewards**

*2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.*

- *Matthew 25:19-21*

#### **Gifted stewards**

*6 I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. 7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*

- *1 Corinthians 12:7*

#### **Fools for Christ's sake**

*8 Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! 9 For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. 11 To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly*

*dressed and buffeted and homeless, 12 and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; 13 when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.*

- *John 15:20-21*

#### **Imitators of Christ**

*14 I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. 18 Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. 21 What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?*

- *1 Corinthians 11:1*

#### **So What?**

- **Are we humbly recognizing and receiving the ministry of our spiritual leaders?**
  - *Hebrews 13:17*
- **Are we humbly recognizing that we are all servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God?**
  - *1 Peter 4:10-11*