

Small Group Guide

THE CROSS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

The Church at Brook Hills

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1 Corinthians 4:1-21

MAIN TRUTH

Message Outline

We should view our leaders as... **Question: How are leaders viewed in our church?**

Paul dealing with people in Corinth who so aligned themselves with one leader in the church to the point of criticizing other leaders; ex. I follow Apollos because I don't care for Paul

Three major descriptions of Christian leaders: They are ...

- Faithful stewards in the service of the gospel **READ v. 1 - 6**
 - Church leaders are loyal to Christ alone. (1-2)
Criticism of Paul irrelevant because of loyalty to Christ; ultimately accountable to Christ
 - Church leaders are looking for God's approval alone. (3-5)
One day, when Christ returns, all our works as for sake of the Gospel will be brought to light

- Foolish spectacles for the sake of the gospel **READ v. 9, 10 – picture of utter humiliation**
 - Church leaders teach the humility of the cross. **REFER v. 6**
(6-8; cf. Acts 14:22; Romans 8:16–17; Colossians 1:24; 2 Timothy 3:12)
 - Church leaders trust in the power of the cross. (9-10) **REFER v. 10**
 - Church leaders live out the death of the cross. **REFER v. 11 – 13; life reflective of life of Christ**
Words are backed up by their feet
(11-13; cf. Isaiah 53:2-3; Mark 8:34-38; Philippians 3:10)

- Spiritual fathers to the children of the gospel **READ v. 15, 16**
 - Church leaders admonish their people in love. (14-15) **REFER v. 14**
 - Church leaders give their people examples to follow. (16-17) **REFER v. 17**
 - Church leaders discipline their people for righteousness. (18-21; cf. Hebrews 12:5-11)
REFER v. 21

Message Summary

This week's message continues our time in 1 Corinthians and focuses on the cross and leadership within the church. **The ministry of church leaders is weighty and often thankless work. Church leaders are called to be faithful stewards in service of the gospel who are loyal to Christ alone. They willingly make themselves spectacles for the sake of the gospel and become spiritual fathers to the children of the gospel. Leadership in the church is a good and God-ordained gift. We should seek to follow the righteous and godly examples of our church leadership and obey their instruction as they lead us toward Christlikeness.**