

Sermon Notes



1 Corinthians 4:1-7

The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness

Tim Keller- [The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness](#)

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³But 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. ⁴For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore 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.

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

⁶I 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. ⁷For 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. Our natural condition of human boasting (1 Corinthians 3:21a; 4:6b-7)
2. Our transformed sense of self (1 Corinthians 4:1-4)
3. How to get to that transformed view of self (1 Corinthians 4:5-7)

Big Idea: The Mark of a Radically Changed Heart is Gospel-Humility.

A. Our Natural Condition of Human Boasting (1 Corinthians 3:21a; 4:6b-7)

^{3:21a} So let no one boast in men...

^{4:6b-7} ...that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another...

Painful
Fragile
Busy
Empty

Madonna

"My drive in life comes from a fear of being mediocre. That is always pushing me. I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being but then I feel I am still mediocre and uninteresting unless I do something else. Because even though I have become somebody, I still have to prove that I am somebody. My struggle has never ended and I guess it never will."

Rocky I

"Cause all I wanna do is go the distance. Nobody's ever gone the distance with Creed, and if I can go that distance, you see, and that bell rings and I'm still standin', I'm gonna know for the first time in my life, see, that I wasn't just another bum from the neighborhood."

B. Our Transformed Sense of Self (v.1-4)

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

1. The Servant (v.1)
2. The Steward (v.2)

3. The Judge (v.3-4)

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.

"The essence of gospel humility is not thinking more of myself or less of myself, it is thinking of myself less." C.S. Lewis

C. How to Get to That Transformed View of Self (5-7)

1. Receive

⁵Therefore 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.

C. How to Get to That Transformed View of Self (5-7)

2. Apply

⁶I 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. ⁷For 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?

Big Idea: The Mark of a Radically Changed Heart is Gospel-Humility.

Study Guide



1 Corinthians 4:1-7

Introduction

What is the mark of a heart radically changed by Jesus? Is it someone who says, “*I help people...*”, or “*I have great words of advice...*”? Interestingly, we can do good things out of fear or pride of the desire to want to be noticed. So what is it to be radically changed by Jesus?

Big Idea: The Mark of a Radically Changed Heart is Gospel-Humility.

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-7. In our Study we will look at:

1. Our natural condition of human boasting (1 Corinthians 3:21a; 4:6b-7)
2. Our transformed sense of self (1 Corinthians 4:1-4)
3. How to get to that transformed view of self (1 Corinthians 4:5-7)

A. Our Natural Condition of Human Boasting (1 Corinthians 3:21a; 4:6b-7)

3:21a So let no one boast in men...

4:6b-7 ...that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another...

Discuss how subtle this boasting can be, and how directly it is related to our self-esteem. Give an example of how you and I tend to boast in ourselves and how our performances motivate us one way or another.

B. Our Transformed Sense of Self (v.1-4)

1. Servant
2. Steward

Discuss these two identities and how our view of self can transform us. Give examples from your own life. How do we come to the conclusion that we are just servants and stewards?

B. Our Transformed Sense of Self (v.1-4)

3. Judge

Discuss the issue of judging- the process of discerning and then placing a verdict on someone. What does it mean to primarily view God as our judge, and not to take as seriously what others think of us? How does this effect the way we look at others?

C. How to Get to That Transformed View of Self (5-7)

1. Receive
2. Apply

What does it mean that you look into the future and realize you won't receive condemnation from God (Romans 8:1), but 'commendation'? In other words, the verdict is in before your performance is done. How does it change you to think that all you have, you received from God? Discuss.

