

# Sermon Notes



## 1 Corinthians 4:8-21

**Big Idea:** Dare to be Different- Disciple-maker vs. Deadweight!

1 Corinthians 4:8-21

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.

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?

A. Kings and Scum (v. 8-13)

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Revelation 3:17-18a

17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked...buy gold refined by fire.

B. Disciple-maker (v14-17)

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.

1. Spiritual Father

2. Gospel-led

3. Admonisher

2 Cor. 6:11- "...my speech is candid and my heart is wide open..."

2 Cor. 12:15a- "I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls."

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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.

4. Example

1 Cor. 11:1 "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ."

C. Dead-weight (v18-21)

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?

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# Study Guide



## 1 Corinthians 4:8-21

**Big Idea:** Dare to be different. Disciple-Maker vs. Deadweight.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 4:8-13. Notice Paul's use of sarcasm and hyperbole to reveal the hidden attitudes of complacency. Discuss the possibility of becoming complacent in our culture. How does it happen? What is it like for you? By contrast, why do you think it's so offensive when you take risks and share the gospel? What was it like for Paul? What has been your experience when you have revealed that you are a Christian in your workplace or neighborhood?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-17. Discuss the marks of being a disciple-maker.

Parental:

Gospel-led:

Admonisher:

Example:

Discuss ways in which you could be more intentional in discipling someone who could then go and disciple someone else.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 4:18-21. Discuss the concept that God's kingdom is not so much about talk, but about power. How have you seen God's power at work as you have prayed and taken risks? Share examples of divine appointments, or strength when you were feeling weak, or answers to prayers.

**Application**

1. Take a few minutes in your group to pray for those who are not yet born again. Consider contacting our office to briefly have your story recorded (What your life was before you became a believer; what caused you to accept Christ; how your life has changed since becoming a Christian).

2. Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider mentoring someone else. Contact our office if you are not sure how to do that, and we would be happy to give you some resources. If you feel that you need mentoring, is there someone in your group that could do that? If not, perhaps men's ministry or women's ministry could help you find a mentor.