

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Jun.....1Cor 1-3..... Promoting Church Unity
- 2) **13 Jun.....1Cor 4..... Encouraging Church Leaders**
- 3) 20 Jun.....1Cor 5-6..... Practicing Christian Morality
- 4) 27 Jun.....1Cor 7..... What Should I Do?
- 5) 04 Jul.....1Cor 8-11..... What Can I Do?
- 6) 11 Jul.....1Cor 12 & 14..... Spiritual Gifts Today
- 7) 18 Jul.....1Cor 13..... Expressing True Love
- 8) 25 Jul.....1Cor 15-16..... Believing in the Resurrection
- 9) 01 Aug.....2Cor 1-2..... The Integrity Factor
- 10) 08 Aug.....2Cor 3-5..... The Faithfulness Factor
- 11) 15 Aug.....2Cor 5-7..... The Reconciliation Factor
- 12) 22 Aug.....2Cor 7-9..... The Long Distance Factor
- 13) 29 Aug.....2Cor 10-13..... The Improvement Factor

INTRODUCTION

- Why would a church lose respect for a good Pastor or a teen lose respect for a good set of parents?

Passage	Comments
4:1-2	<p>Servants (lit. underrowers) of God and Stewards or Managers of the Mysteries of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the reputation Paul wanted – to be faithful, trustworthy – and so should we • What are the “Mysteries of God” 1Tim 3:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Suffering Savior Rom 16:25; Col 4:3 ◆ Rapture..... 1Co 15:51 ◆ Gentiles are fellow heirs Eph 3:3-9 ◆ The Church..... Eph 5:32
4:3-7	<p>Judgment of Leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Corinthians, for some reason, were very judgmental and critical of Paul • Reminiscent of King David’s men seeking his death for something he did not do . 1Sam 30:1-6 • Leaders often take the heat when bad things happen on their watch • Frivolous and unjustifiable criticism against leaders should not be heeded. Check the Facts • v6 – “...learn not to exceed what is written” - in other words, find and stick with the truth and do not trust hearsay & rumors
When is it Right to Judge?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Elders – better have at least 2 witnesses of wrong doing 1Tim 5:19 • Sin in the Camp – Take steps to rebuke, remove, correct, restore 1Cor 5:1-5; 6:1-3
4:8-13	<p>Persecution of Leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4:11 – If God promised not to leave, fail or forsake his disciples (Heb 13:5) how do we reconcile the fact that most of His Apostles suffered hunger, thirst, poverty, homelessness, brutality and eventually martyrdom? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The righteous suffer like the wicked .Ecc 8:14 ◆ God’s ways are not our waysIs 55:8 ◆ Persecution is promised to those who live for God..... John 15:20; 2Tim 3:12 ◆ God does what He pleases.....Ps 115:3 ◆ All things work together for the good of His people.....Rom 8:28 ◆ God’s leaders/teachers receive greater judgmentJames 3:1
4:14-15	<p>Who’s Your Daddy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was the spiritual father of the Corinthians and they had lost their respect of this Apostle

Passage	Comments
4:16-17	<p>Imitate your Leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should imitate those who imitate Christ 1Cor 11:1; Heb 6:12; 3John 1:11
4:18-21	<p>The Leader’s Rod of Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would a church, which is composed of a volunteer workforce, need to be disciplined? • Remember – We are a precious commodity– we do not belong to ourselves but to Christ who bought us 1Cor 6:20 • Correction by a godly leader is better than enduring God’s wrath (recall Rev. churches – Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis) • God has the right to take us home early (1Cor 11); punish us harshly; or we suffer loss of blessings (...take from him and give to another)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- Paul attempted to repair the damage through logic and reason – but would the Corinthians listen and obey? Do we?

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

1Co 4:16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.
 1Co 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
 Php 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
 Php 4:9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.
 2Th 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;
 Heb 6:12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

NEXT WEEK:

1Cor 5 & 6 – How to clean up sin in the camp

