

EXTREME SERVICE: Church Anniversary 2017

Read (1 Corinthians 4:1-13)

A growing relationship with Christ leads to greater service for Christ.

START HERE:

Some people say, *“I really want to be used!”* But if you ask them to come early to welcome people in or stay late to lock up, they say, *“Now I’m just being used!”*

Q, WHY is serving others so difficult do you think?

One by one go round the group and ask WHAT the greatest act of service is that anyone has ever had done for them and WHY it made such a difference to them?

CONTINUE VERSE BY VERSE:

Q. In WHAT ways can we offer ourselves as Servants of Christ to other people? (Vs.1a)

Q. WHAT are the secret things of God entrusted to us as servants of God (Vs.1b)

Q. WHAT one quality do servants of the Gospel need most to fulfil their calling as servants? (Vs.2)

Q. WHOSE judgment do we need to fear the least and WHOSE Judgement are we to fear the most? - HOW does this impact our serving do you think? (Vs.3-5) - WHO do we answer to?

It is easy to evaluate a Christian leader especially on unbiblical grounds. To judge them on the basis of their humour, or their entertainment value, appearance, or skill or lack of it, but this is to think *beyond what is written* (Vs.6) in the sense Paul means it here.

Q. HOW can we keep ourselves from going beyond what is written?

Like the Corinthian Christians it is easy to use unbiblical standards to judge those over us in the Lord. (ie:Apostles)

Q. WHAT might this lead to? (Vs. 6b-7)

Q. WHAT do you think Paul is saying in (Vs.8)?

Q. WHY do you think the apostles were put on display when they were men sentenced to death, a spectacle for others, fools for Christ, weak and held in disrepute? (Vs.9-10)

Q. HOW can we become strong enough in our faith in order to bless people when they revile us and to endure it when they persecute us? (Vs.11-13)

TAKE AWAY:

It may be a little embarrassing to read Paul's description of his servant ministry while eating our good food whilst watching the TV and booking our next holiday on line.

Q. DO you think we want more to be popular than faithful?

Q. DO we the power without the cost?

Q. WHEN did we last suffer for the gospel or even

Paul would warn the Corinthians (Vs.18-21) that his visit to them would test the validity of their spiritual claims and servant heart.

Q. HOW has our Christian commitment to serve been tested and by whom or what in recent days & HOW did we come through such a test? SHARE.

God help us to choose Paul's way and serve well.

Shaun