

## **“Godly Leadership Protects Unity”**

1 Corinthians 3:18 – 4:5

For the week of September 27, 2020

### **What is Godly Leadership?**

What is Christian leadership? What should a Christian leader be like? Our example is Jesus Christ. In John 10:11 He said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” It is within this verse that we see the perfect description of a Christian leader. Some of the aspects of a Christian leader are given below. Write down your understanding of each term:

- Follows Christ
- Models godliness and righteousness
- Feeds and nourishes those under his care
- Leads
- Comforts and sympathizes
- Helps to bear our burdens
- Exhibits patience toward us
- Encourages us in the Word
- Prays for us
- Corrects and disciplines those in his care when they go astray
- Protector

A final word on Christian leaders comes from pastor and author John MacArthur from the article *Wanted: A Few Good Shepherds (Must Know How to Wash Feet)*:

“Under the plan God has ordained for the church, leadership is a position of humble, loving service. Church leadership is ministry, not management. Those whom God designates as leaders are called not to be governing monarchs, but humble slaves; not slick celebrities, but laboring servants. Those who would lead God’s people must above all exemplify sacrifice, devotion, submission, and lowliness. Jesus Himself gave us the pattern when He stooped to wash His disciples’ feet, a task that was customarily done by the lowest of slaves (John 13). If the Lord of the universe would do that, no church leader has a right to think of himself as a bigwig.”

## **Worldly Wisdom = Folly**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-23**

Verse 19 describes the “wisdom of this world” as folly with God. What is the wisdom of this world? Describe it.

Now, why is the wisdom of this world folly? How would you summarize the biblical view of wisdom from this passage?

Reread verse 21. What does Paul mean by saying “all things are yours”?

Arrogance was the root of divisiveness in Corinth. It can be just as destructive in today’s church. Read 2 Peter 1:5-13. What do these verses say is necessary for us to grow to maturity? How does spiritual maturity thwart arrogance in a person’s life?

## **Servant and Steward**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5**

Who does Paul report to and what does that mean for the way he should relate to the Corinthians? How does this change the way the Corinthians should relate to Paul? How does this change the way we relate to our church leaders?

Pastors aren't the only ones that should look for God's approval instead of the approval of other people. In what ways are you most prone to seek the approval of others instead of seeking God's approval? Are there any changes you need to make because of this?

In this passage Paul refers to a "servant" and "steward." A servant refers to one who acts under the orders of another and draws on the image of submission to one who has greater authority. A steward refers to one who is put in charge of a household or estate. Reread verses 1-2. Describe how a servant and steward be "found trustworthy?" Give examples.

One of the best examples in the Bible of a servant and steward was Joseph, who was the chief steward in Potiphar's household. Read Genesis 39 and describe how Joseph was an effective servant and steward.

### **Three Judgments in the Life of a Steward**

1. There is man's judgment (verse 3). Why didn't Paul get upset when people criticized him? What was his perspective?
2. There is the servant's own self-judgment (verses 3-4). What are the pros and cons of self-judging yourself? What was Paul's perspective?
3. God's judgment (verses 4-5). God judges us today through His Word (Hebrews 4:12) and by the ministry of the Holy Spirit, but this is referencing the final evaluation when each Christian stands at the Judgment Seat of Christ. What will happen (read Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)?

### **Final Thought**

Paul's message is as clear-as-a-bell: None of us qualify for judging others. Let's not judge other people based on what we think we see or hear. Instead, let's leave that to the Lord, because He is able to do things that we cannot. He can bring to light the things hidden in the darkness. He alone knows the whole story. Second, our Lord has the ability to disclose the motives of the heart. He knows not only what somebody says or does, but why. Only God can do that.

### **Pray**

Take your group time to lift up our church leaders at RiverLakes.