

SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

To maximize the benefit of this study, it's best to complete in advance.

[set up]

What was one aspect of the service this last weekend that really connected with you (maybe it was new to you, a refreshing reminder for you, or convicting to you)?

Have someone open in prayer for your group (for your hopes and goals for the time).

[digging deeper]

Review the teaching passage from Sunday – **1 Corinthian 4:1-5**.

After reading these verses, if you were to answer the question, “So What?” as in, so what’s the point of this passage, or what do I do with this information, what’s your answer?

What is the significance of the terms “servants” and “stewards” and how does it help us see how Paul saw himself and the other spiritual leaders like Apollos and Peter? Tip – doing an original word search for the words in Greek will be very insightful. You can use this link if you’d like –

https://www.blueletterbible.org/esv/1co/4/1/t_conc_1066001

Fill in the blank according to verse 2 –

A steward is required to be _____

Give two or three examples of what that could look like.

Read 1 Peter 4:10. How does that help us personally relate to Paul in 1 Corinthians?

Re-read Vs. 3-4. Summarize what Paul was saying about himself.

There is great freedom in coming to the conclusion that we ultimately are answerable to God not to other people. But that truth can also be misused. Give an example or scenario (real life or made up) of living your life with freedom of being judged by God not people.

Give an example of scenario of what it would look like to misuse that perspective.



With all the talk of judgment in these verses, are we to never judge one another?
What judgment is probably in Paul's mind?

If our hearts, actions, and motives are judged by God, then why are we so bothered by the criticisms or accusations of other people? What does that say about where we place our hope, faith, sense of value, and worth?

How is verse 5 both concerning and encouraging?

How do Romans 14:12 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 contribute to the conversation?

One way to summarize what Paul is saying in these verses is to live for the praise of God not people. Why is that easier said than done? What can we do to help us actually live this out?

What commendation do you greatly desire to hear from the Lord one day (v. 5)?

After more discussion, interaction and study, is your "So What" from above the same, or has it changed a bit? Share your thoughts...

[living it out]

When I think of being a steward of the time, resources, gifts, and ministry opportunities God has given me, I feel like I am (place a dot on the line). Explain. What would it take to move the dot if you aren't satisfied with where it is?

Faithful _____ Unfaithful

When I think of being free from living as a people pleaser, I feel like I am (place a dot on the line). Explain. What would it take to move the dot if you aren't satisfied with where it is?

Free _____ Enslaved

When I think of having a clear conscience before God and His judgment (not perfect, but not living in shame or secrecy), I feel like I am (place dot on a line). Explain. What would it take to move the dot if you aren't satisfied with where it is?

Confident _____ Uncertain



If you're looking for additional takeaways from the lesson, you can engage the "SPECK" Bible study method. Keep a special eye open for corporate application to the church. Then share in smaller groups or with the whole group ONE of your takeaways.

S – Is there a Sin to avoid?

P – Is there a Promise to hold onto?

E – Is there an Example to follow?

C – Is there a Command to obey?

K – Is there Knowledge about God that we learn?

[close in prayer]

Close in prayer for each other based on the passage we read and the answers you gave to the questions above. You can use words, thoughts, and concepts from 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 as a prayer guide as well as your insights, convictions, and desired applications. Keep in mind how to (1) Praise God, (2) Thank God, (3) Confess to God, and (4) Make requests of God for both yourself, your group, and our church as you pray.

