



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

TRUE HUMILITY

1 Corinthians 4:7-21

The true servant of Christ supremely cares what God thinks, but at the same time, does not think too highly of his or her own self.

- We should all strive to be truly humble.
- The truth is this: when we see ourselves correctly as faulty, frail, foolish, and flawed, we can then see others correctly as well!
- If you measure yourself by Jesus, nobody will stand out.

TIME FOR A REALITY CHECK v. 8-9

With a tad bit of sarcasm, Paul derided the rampant pride in the Corinthian church.

- They thought they reigned in their little groups as though they had become the king himself.
- All followers of Jesus have faced this same temptation—even the disciples. **Luke 9; Matt. 20**
- True disciples are actually suffering servants condemned to be a spectacle of humility!

***PUT THIS IN YOUR RÉSUMÉ* v. 10-13**

Ouch! Paul's sarcasm must have shamed his readers: *Oh, I forgot you guys graduated from WASU (We Are Superior University); every tool shed wants us!*

- **PAUL'S CREDENTIALS:** Homeless, poorly clothed, beat up, beat down, partially unemployed, trash talked, dirty, smelly, and just downright disheveled.
- We may be rubbish—the dregs of society—to you, but we are loved by and mightily used by God!

***FOLLOW THE LEADER* v. 14-16**

Paul's sarcasm was not meant to *shame* these believers but to *warn* them because they were his *beloved children in the faith*.

- Paul's tough words were motivated by love, like the love of a good father for his children. **1 Thess. 2:11**
- Jesus was Paul's example; therefore, Paul's life could be an example to other Christians.
- Influences you cannot trace back to Christ should not claim your efforts and affections.

BLUEPRINTS, EXAMPLES AND PATTERNS

Timothy was a blueprint of Paul, who was an example of Jesus, and a pattern to follow.

- **Matthew 11:29:** “Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me.”
- **1 Thessalonians 1:6-7:** “You imitated both us and the Lord . . . you yourselves became an example.”
- **1 Peter 5:3:** “Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your good example.”

WHAT KIND OF EXAMPLE ARE YOU?

KEEP IT REAL!

The example of Christ's humility is not found in spiritual bloviating, *AKA blowing hot air* about Jesus.

- It's in living like Jesus. Being a big talker about Jesus is one thing, but *living like Jesus* is quite another.
- The more we are like Jesus, the more gentle, merciful, loving, kind, forgiving, and ultimately, the more ***TRULY HUMBLE*** we will be.
- Keep it real. Without Jesus we are all in trouble.