

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **On Judging and Being Judged (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)**

Date: **May 22, 2016**

The Corinthian church not only struggled with divisive and fleshly behaviour, but in this week's text we find out that they were also a church prone to improper judgment. They falsely judged Paul and some of their other church leaders. They were critical of Paul's spiritual effectiveness even though they had no grounds for their judgments against him. In 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Paul addresses this issue head on and commands the Corinthians to stop judging people improperly. In this week's study, we will learn the difference between proper and improper judgments. We must not judge others too quickly without first gathering enough facts. Furthermore, we must not judge according to our personal opinions or how someone stacks up against someone else. Proper judgement occurs when we gather the facts and then carefully evaluate them through the lens of Scripture. We will be reminded that right judgment is marked by biblical truth, not personal preference.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. How does 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 connect to the previous passages that we've studied thus far in 1 Corinthians?
 - b. Paul uses the words "servants" and "stewards" in verse 1. What does Paul mean by each of these terms?
 - c. What do the terms "servants" and "stewards" have to do with the coming judgment? How do we know that stewards and servants will be judged?
 - d. What are the "mysteries of God" in verse 1?
 - e. Why is it bad stewardship when church leaders neglect using their God-given authority? On the other hand, how might they abuse their God-given authority?
 - f. How were the Corinthians improperly judging Paul and the other church leaders? What are some ways we might be tempted to improperly judge our leaders?

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- g. Paul considers it a very small thing to be judged by the Corinthians or by any human court (verse 3). How can he say this and not be arrogant? Is Paul saying he does not need to subject himself to any human judgment?
- h. Is Paul commanding the Corinthians and us not to judge at all? What was the problem with the type of judging that was going on in the Corinthian church?
- i. Paul says in verse 4, “For I am not aware of anything against myself.” What does he mean by this?
- j. Why must we be very cautious when we make judgment calls as a church?
- k. What is the difference between a (1) biblical conviction, (2) personal conviction, and (3) personal opinion? Give an example of each.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What are some ways we might be tempted to improperly judge our own leaders? What are some unhelpful ways we might be tempted to judge our peers or other people?
3. Pastor Jacob talked about the difference between a (1) biblical conviction, (2) personal conviction, and (3) personal opinion. Why is he so concerned that we not blur the lines between these three things?
4. When we are suspicious of something but have nothing upon which to ground it, how should we approach this? Why must we be cautious before make judgment calls as a church?
5. How might waiting for the judgment of God keep us from making unfair and unbiblical judgment toward others (especially church leaders)?