

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Don't Be Puffed Up (1 Corinthians 4:6-13)**

Date: **May 29, 2016**

The church in Corinth was a church full of people that loved to compare themselves with one another. They turned church into a popularity contest that valued personality over humility. Furthermore, the people in the church had an unfounded sense of entitlement. All of this led to a puffed up church. People were getting arrogant. In 1 Corinthians 4:6-13, Paul addresses this issue head on. He encourages the Corinthian church to get low and be humble. In this week's study, we will learn about the danger of arrogance and the importance of humility in the Christian life. Arrogance is a hindrance to the gospel. If we want to be used by Christ to advance his kingdom, we must get low and recognize that we are not entitled to anything. Everything we have been given has come from the gracious hand of God. We are nothing, he is everything. We must decrease so that he and his kingdom might increase.

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

**Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 4:6-13 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. In verse 6, Paul writes, "I have applied all *these things* to myself." What are "these things"? To whom did "these things" apply and why?
  - b. What does Paul mean when he commands the Corinthians "not to go beyond what is written" in verse 6? What is he talking about and what is the point of it?
  - c. Toward the end of verse 6 Paul warns about the Corinthians getting "puffed up." How were they being puffed up? How can we not go beyond "these things" and not get "puffed up"? What are some ways we might be tempted to get puffed up?
  - d. How can the praise of man and the love of the praise of man be a hindrance to our Christian growth?
  - e. In verse 7, Paul writes, "For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive?" What is he teaching the Corinthians through these rhetorical questions?

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- f. Is there anything that we have that we have earned? How can a sense of entitlement hinder our Christian growth? Are there any other passages that indicate we have earned nothing and that everything is a gift of God?
- g. How is Paul's use of sarcasm in verse 8 appropriate? What is he trying to communicate? Why is arrogance always a lie?
- h. What does the word "spectacle" mean in verse 9? How have the apostles become a spectacle and to whom have they become a spectacle?
- i. According to verses 10-13, what did the apostles have to go through in order to build the church and be used of God? If we want to be used of God what should we be willing to go through?
- j. What does it mean to be scum and refuse? How much are you willing to give up in order to be used by the Lord and his kingdom? What are you withholding from the Lord?

### 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 "go beyond what is written and get puffed up"? How does remembering that everything we have is from God help us to fight against pride and arrogance?
3. How can the praise of man and the love of the praise of man hinder our Christian growth? How can a sense of entitlement hinder our Christian growth?
4. The apostles endured much hardship for the sake of Christ. If we want to be used of God, what must we be willing to go through? How can we get to the place where we are genuinely willing to suffer loss for Christ?
5. How much should we be willing to give up in order to be used by the Lord and his kingdom? What are some things we might be tempted to withhold from the Lord?