

Week of January 12, 2025 - Living Like Kings

Small Group Lesson 11

Connect

Have you ever noticed how easily people can be influenced by others? How can we be sure this is not happening to us?

Verses - 1 Corinthians 4:6-13 (CSB)

Read aloud:

6 Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying: "Nothing beyond what is written." The purpose is that none of you will be arrogant, favoring one person over another. 7 For who makes you so superior? What do you have that you didn't receive? If, in fact, you did receive it, why do you boast as if you hadn't received it? 8 You are already full! You are already rich! You have begun to reign as kings without us — and I wish you did reign, so that we could also reign with you! 9 For I think God has displayed us, the apostles, in last place, like men condemned to die: We have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to people. 10 We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! 11 Up to the present hour we are both hungry and thirsty; we are poorly clothed, roughly treated, homeless; 12 we labor, working with our own hands. When we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; 13 when we are slandered, we respond graciously. Even now, we are like the scum of the earth, like everyone's garbage.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. In verse 6, Paul says he applied “these things” to myself and Apollos. What does he mean by this, and what was he trying to convey by saying that? (1 Cor 4:1-5)

2. In verses 7-8, what does Paul ask the Corinthians in relation to their own accomplishments? What do you think his purpose was in asking them this question?

3. How did Paul contrast the state that he and the other apostles were in compared to that of the Corinthians in vv.9-13? List of ways Paul and the other apostles *responded* to how they were treated in verses 12 and 13. What was he trying to point out? (1 Corinthians 3:21-23, 4:14)

Share

Discuss this from this week’s message:
In the message, Pastor Takeshi discussed the issue of encouraging Sunday School students to simply be “good.” How can this method of behaviorism fail to work and even backfire? How does this highlight the necessity of faithfully standing firm in the knowledge of our righteousness, holiness, and redemption through the cross of Christ?

Discuss:
The Corinthians seem to have been giving credit to human leaders, instead of giving credit to the work of God. What is the work of God? What is the application of John 6:29, and how does it apply? (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.