

"THE MINISTER'S CRITICS"

1 Corinthians 3:21-4:5

Introduction: Up to this point Paul has identified two causes of division within the Church at Corinth. The first cause was a misconception of the message, and the second cause was a misconception of the ministry. There is a very real sense that every believer is "in the ministry", but in 1 Corinthians 3 Paul's emphasis is on those engaged in preaching and teaching the Word of God. In Corinth a misconception of the ministry had splintered the church. In 1 Corinthians 3:5-8 Paul told them that a minister of the Gospel, rather than being a celebrity was in fact a servant. In verses 10-17 Paul likens ministers as builders in God's Temple responsible for building doctrine into the Temple of God. Paul goes on to explain in verses 18-20 that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God..." If the nature of Christian ministry is that the only valuable wisdom is that which comes from God and not from man then the question arises - "What should our response and attitude be to ministers of the Gospel?" Paul will explain this by means of two exhortations in 1 Corinthians 3:21-4:5...one negative and one positive.

THE NEGATIVE EXHORTATION - "LET NO ONE BOAST IN MEN"

A. The _____ of boasting from Scripture - Various

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

B. The _____ of boasting in Men

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

C. The _____ for not boasting in Men - 1 Corinthians 3:21b-23

1. It _____ you of your full ministry

2. It _____ you of your full dignity

3. It _____ Christ of His full ownership

4. It _____ God of His full glory

THE POSITIVE EXHORTATION - "LET A MAN SO CONSIDER US..."

▶ "...as _____ of Christ - 4:1

▶ "...as _____ of the mysteries of God - 4:1

A. The Primary _____ of Ministers - 4:1

B. The Primary _____ of Ministers - 4:2

C. The Primary _____ of Ministers - 4:3-5

1. Not to the _____ - 4:3a

2. Not to the _____ - 4:3b

3. Not to _____ - 4:3c-4a

4. BUT to the _____ - 4:4b-5

CONCLUSION: 1 Corinthians 4:5