

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JULY 12 & 18TH

Questions related to the Context of Chapters 1-4.

1. 1 Corinthians is a big book that addresses many problems that the church was having. Chapters 1-4 can almost be seen as a book within the book. Sometime over the next two weeks, read through 1 Corinthians 1-4 in a single sitting. Are there any repeating phrases or ideas that might help identify what the theme of these chapters is. What are some of the key themes that emerge from the text? What are some of the analogies that Paul uses to describe the church in chapters 3 and 4. What are some of the problems that are being addressed? From your observations, are there one or two key problems that immerge as being more significant than others. What appears to be at the core of the problem(s). Try to summarize in a few sentences what the big issue is that is being addressed in chapters 1-4.
2. Think of some organizations that you have been involved with in the past. What kind of leadership structures were in place for those organizations? How were leaders regarded in those organizations and how did they function? What set of skills do we typically like to see in leaders? When it comes to Church, what is the differ
3. What three phrases in verse 1 and 2 describe what Paul sees as a healthy perspective on how leadership is to be viewed in the Church? Is this the same or different than what you have experienced in other organizations or churches that you have previously been involved in? If so, how is it different.
4. How are leaders to be assessed/examined and who should be doing it? (4:3-5)
5. In the NASB verse 5 begins with “therefore”. What does this indicate about the instructions that he is about to give? How do the instructions tie in with what he has previously said. What are the instructions given in verse 5? What does verse 5 reveal about how leaders will be examined? Do these instructions mean that leaders in the church are exempt from every being confronted with issues?
6. Verse 6 appears to be a key link between verses 1-5 and the remaining part of the chapter. It also shines light on what maybe was the key problem was in Corinth. What is revealed about all that Paul has said up to this point? For whose benefit has Paul been saying what has said? Was the problem with the leaders or with the congregation. What key problem is being addressed? (In the NASB, note the importance of the two phrases that begin with “So that...”)
7. What is the contrast between verses 7-8 and verses 9-13. How has the tone of Pauls’ writing changed. Why do you think it has changed?
8. The tone appears to change again in 14-16. How would you describe this change? What aspects of Pauls’ life do you thing he is asking the Corinthians to imitate in verse 16.