

I Corinthians 4:1-7 “Breaking Granddad’s Bent”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- I. Proper perspective for the servants of God includes understanding their reasonable service as Servants/stewards.
- II. Paul called on the Corinthians to break the bent of their old ways of doing things. The call was to recognize the destructive, sinful, patterns in their lives and forsake them.
- III. The pitfall of pride manifests itself in arrogance.

Servants subordinates, under the authority of another. Called to serve men in Christ’s name.

Low rank, hard labor, and cruel treatment.

Stewards of the mysteries of God. Steward literally means “house manager.”

Mysteries of God, in the NT that which was hidden, can be known only by divine revelation.

In verses five through six Paul issues an attitude check.

*Do not take pride in some people and despise others.

*Do not go beyond what is written in OT doctrine.

Put another way do not go beyond the teaching of Scripture about how one should treat teachers and others.

*Then believers will not be arrogant and conceited taking one over against another.

APPLICATION:

Old habits, old ways are hard to break. Often a person is not even aware of tendencies that are displeasing to the Lord. The Corinthians were judging with wrong motives (v. 6b). Each group in the church was tearing down the other preachers in order to build up the man they liked. Their motive was not at all spiritual. Division was the result. They needed to examine their own hearts and get rid of the pride that was destroying the church. Let’s take time periodically to examine our ways and motifs. To cause division among the brethren is a terrible thing. Ask the Lord to give you discernment as you go through this self examination of why you do the things you do. Good servants and stewards of the Lord are faithful and trustworthy, let us strive to build a legacy of such attributes. A proper perspective of the Christian life is crucial.