

October 11/12, 2008

Study Questions
Living Like Christians
Scum of the World
1 Corinthians 4:1-21
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Do you agree that religion is big business? Why is this?
2. In what ways do you see spiritual arrogance show up in religion?
3. What is the relationship between the prosperity gospel and grace?

Bible Study

1. 1 Corinthians 4 wraps up the discussion in chapters 1-4. Summarize 1-3.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-21. What does it mean to consider yourself a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God? Who gets the spotlight for both a servant and a steward?
3. How does 4:1-5 help us continue to develop our theology of rewards from 3:10-15? What we find meaningful as a reward is directly related to our value system. For a person who truly understands and lives according to grace, what could be more “rewarding” than praise from God?
4. Religion and legalism both create a scoreboard that provides a basis upon which we can measure who is out performing whom. How does that line up with 4:6-7?
5. Paul is sarcastically revealing how ridiculous it is for the Corinthians who are still spiritual infants (3:2) to think they’ve become superior to the Apostles. Have you seen that same spiritual arrogance in relatively new believers and why do you think this happens?
6. How does the journey of the Apostles line up with the message of the prosperity gospel in our day? How should we define “success” as Christians today?
7. Who would you define as your spiritual “parents” and do they (he/she) have more influence in your life than others? Why or why not? Do you have that same level of influence in the lives of others? If so, how do you use that influence?

Application

1. Having now studied 1 Corinthians 1-4, what is spiritual pride? Do you see evidence in your life of spiritual pride? What is the solution?
2. How do we keep from becoming like the Corinthian believers? List 3 practical things you can do to maintain a consistent theology of grace on a daily basis.
3. What will be necessary for you to be “trustworthy” as a steward of God’s calling in your life? What will be necessary for you to invest your life in that which will “remain” and which will receive the praise from God?