

Critics in the Church

Assignment: Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-21

Outline:

I. Leaders and Criticism (1 Corinthians 4:1-8)

Do Not Judge (1 Cor. 4:1-5)

Abandon Proud Behavior (1 Cor. 4:6-8)

II. Lessons and Correction (1 Corinthians 4:9-21)

Lessons in Patience (1 Cor. 4:9-14)

Lessons in Conduct (1 Cor. 4:15-21)

Starter Questions

1. How did God speak to you through this passage?
2. What questions came to mind as you read this passage?
3. How is my life going to be different from reading this passage?

Potential Discussion Questions

1. What do you think a church member should do if he has a “bad attitude” toward a pastor?
2. What should a believer do when someone repeats gossip or says negative things about another believer? About a non-Christian? What causes a critical attitude? How can you combat a critical attitude?
3. What are the results of spiritual pride, prejudice, divisiveness, and egotism in the life of a believer? In the church?
4. How can we develop an uncompromised loyalty to Christ and not loyalty to a human leader?
5. Why does the world despise the Gospel?
6. What is wrong with being unreservedly accepted by unbelievers in society? How can we know if we are suffering for our identification with Christ and Christlike standards or if we are suffering for our own spiritual arrogance and judgmental attitudes?
7. When should the church exercise discipline on its members? Give specific examples and discuss the discipline you consider biblical.
8. How would you describe the kind of spiritual example that your life is? How can you improve the example others see in your life?

1 Corinthians 4:1-21