## WHEN THINGS ARE AWRY

1 COR. 4

**SUNDAY REVIEW.** Think about the basis of our evaluations, our relationship to the world, and expressions of tough love as you reflect on 1 Corinthians 4:1-21. What did you learn from the Sunday sermon and how are you trying to apply God's word to your life?

2 Judgmental factions in the Corinthian church bothered Paul. He speaks about how he handles judgment in (1 Cor. 4:3-5). Are you in danger of being judgmental in Christian circles? How would you know if judgmentalism is taking root in your heart?

🗱 What do you do when other Christians judge you?

Read 1 Cor. 4:4. How does the phrase "It is the Lord who judges me" make you feel? How does it change the way you view your own efforts to serve God and his church? Do you find it liberating or challenging—or both?

Take a moment to think about the things that usually impress people in Christian circles. Should those things be the measure of a Christian or not?

Which of those are you most tempted by - either to be impressed by or seek the approval of others in?

🦻 Whether people think highly of you or not, what does it look like to make your boast in Christ alone?



- What are some ways a church can provide helpful guidelines and models of holy living without exercising unhealthy control? How can the church both walk holy and talk holy?
- Q Can you say "imitate me as I imitate Christ" to anyone? What areas do you sense that God needs to grow you in so you can have that influence towards someone else? How can the group pray for you?

5 Instead of putting pastors and Christian leaders on pedestals, how should we regard them according to (1 Cor 4:1)?

Q What makes a good church minister? What should their priorities be?

6

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

$\Im$ What does the description in (v. 9-13) indicate about the nature of gospel ministry?	
How can you pray for your pastors? How could you encourage the pastors at your church in the things God commends?	
<b>How can you recognize real Christian leaders from the fake ones?</b> Paul knew that some leaders in the Corinthian church were imposters. The gospel had been silenced by their substitute message. They were "arrogant" (1 Cor. 4:18-19), thinking they knew better. They relied not on God's power but on their own words (v. 20). And they were leading people away from Christ. So, what are some of the key qualities of a real Christian minister in 1 Cor. 4?	