



WEEK 10 | SERVANTS NOT CELEBRITIES | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

1 Corinthians 3:5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 A person should think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of the mysteries of God. ² In this regard, it is required that managers be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:3-4 It is of little importance to me that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I don't even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not conscious of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this. It is the Lord who judges me.

Galatians 1:10 For am I now trying to persuade people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

2 Samuel 24:14 David answered Gad, "I have great anxiety. Please, let us fall into the Lord's hands because his mercies are great, but don't let me fall into human hands."

1 Corinthians 4:5 So don't judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God.

1 Corinthians 4:6-7 Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying: "Nothing beyond what is written." The purpose is that none of you will be arrogant, favoring one person over another. ⁷ For who makes you so superior? What do you have that you didn't receive? If, in fact, you did receive it, why do you boast as if you hadn't received it?

1 Corinthians 4:8-13 You are already full! You are already rich! You have begun to reign as kings without us—and I wish you did reign, so that we could also reign with you! ⁹ For I think God has displayed us, the apostles, in last place, like men condemned to die: We have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to people. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! ¹¹ Up to the present hour we are both hungry and thirsty; we are poorly clothed, roughly treated, homeless; ¹² we labor, working with our own hands. When we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³ when we are slandered, we respond graciously. Even now, we are like the scum of the earth, like everyone's garbage.

NOTES: _____

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? Did you gain new insights?
2. Paul describes church leaders as servants of Christ and managers of the mysteries of God. How does this description challenge or affirm your current view of pastors and church leadership?
3. The sermon emphasized that church leaders must be found faithful—in purity, finances, worship, and more. Why is it so important for leaders to model this faithfulness? How can the church support leaders in this?
4. Paul talks about the danger of judging others prematurely. Why is it hard to avoid judging someone's heart or motives? How can we practice discernment without becoming judgmental?
5. The Corinthian church was divided over personalities like Paul, Apollos, and Peter. Where do we see similar divisions or "celebrity culture" in churches today? What can we do personally to avoid contributing to that?
6. Paul described the apostles as being treated like "scum of the earth," yet they responded with humility, endurance, and grace. What can we learn from their example when we're mistreated or overlooked? Where is God calling you to choose humility this week?
7. Paul asks, "What do you have that you didn't receive?" How does remembering that everything we have is from God help us fight pride and comparison?