

Lesson 5:

Division over preachers: "Now some are puffed up..."

1 Corinthians 4:14-21

"I do not write these things to shame you..." [1 Cor 4:14-17]

1) Though his description of all that he, Apollos, and others had suffered in order that the Corinthians might be "wise" in Christ was certainly meant to humble them, Paul was not primarily concerned to *shame* them, but to do what? [4:14]

-- As he does this, what is the basis for his appeal to them? [4:14; cp 1:10]

2) Why does Paul feel like he may have a special qualification to appeal to them that all of their other instructors might not have? [4:15]

-- How does Paul say this relationship was formed? [4:15; cp Philemon 10; 1 Tm 1:2; 2 Tm 2:1]

3) What is Paul's explicit exhortation to them since they have such an intimate relationship? [4:16]

-- What did Paul do in order to remind them of his ways (so that they could more effectively "imitate" him)? [4:16-17]

-- According to this relationship picture Paul has painted, who is Timothy to him and to them? [4:17; cp 2 Corinthians 1:1]

-- Specifically, what "ways" has Paul instructed Timothy to remind the Corinthians of? [4:17]

"Now some are puffed up..." [1 Cor 4:18-21]

1) Paul has been challenging the Corinthians because of their arrogant "wisdom"; in what way does he now say they are "puffed up", specifically? [4:18]

-- However, what is Paul's plan? [4:19] What determines if he fulfills that plan or not? [4:19]

-- What does Paul say he will "know" about them when he arrives? [4:19]

2) What is the difference between their apparent "reign" (cp 4:8) and the kingdom of God? [4:20]

-- In the end, who determines in what manner Paul will come to them – whether "with a rod, or in a spirit of love and gentleness"? [4:21]