

# Paul the Planter and His Church in Crisis

OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2006

SUFFERING LIKE JESUS—1 CORINTHIANS 4:1 - 13

**Headline:**  
Young Urban Church  
Suffers Growing Pains

## I. Growing Pains

- Great Need for Leaders
- \_\_\_\_\_ leader skills don't translate to ministry well
- Ministry is \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Truth of Christian Leadership

### A. Christian Leaders are Servants and Stewards

#### 1. Servant

<sup>1</sup>"So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ"

- *Servant: Literally means* \_\_\_\_\_
- *You don't get to pick your* \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Steward

<sup>1</sup>"as those entrusted with the secret things of God. "

- *Steward: Uses resources not your own, executing them to maximum effectiveness*
- *God's resources to Manage:*  
Breath | Money | Talent and Skill

### B. Christian Leaders are Sustained by God's Word

<sup>6</sup>"so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, 'Do not go beyond what is written.'"

#### 1. Leaders Must be in the Bible because:

The Bible brings authority

Authority is required for leadership

Authority only comes from the Bible

You cannot speak with authority without knowing your Bible



Last Week:

### The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Audio from prior week's messages are eventually available for download at [ForThoseWhoThirst.org](http://ForThoseWhoThirst.org).

This Week:

### Suffering like Jesus

1 Corinthians 4:1-13

Next Week:

### Power From Jesus

1 Corinthians 4:14-21

## C. Christian Leaders are Sustained by God's Grace

<sup>7</sup>What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"

- God has no \_\_\_\_\_ kids
- The honor goes to God
- Christian leaders are \_\_\_\_\_

## D. Leaders are Accountable to Jesus

<sup>2</sup>Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. <sup>2</sup>Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. <sup>3</sup>I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. "

- I must be faithful
- I must make decisions
- I can't depend on my own \_\_\_\_\_

### Godly Leaders

- Listen to Godly leaders
- Take Godly council
- Repent when I have erred or sinned
- Be ready to give an account

## 2. If you aspire to be a leader:

- Read your Bible regularly
- Look for Jesus in the pages of Scripture
- Memorize Scripture
- Seek to understand what is taught
- Lead by Biblical Conviction

## III. Still Want to Lead?

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup>So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. <sup>2</sup>Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. <sup>3</sup>I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

<sup>6</sup>Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. <sup>7</sup>For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

<sup>8</sup>Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings—and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you! <sup>9</sup>For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. <sup>10</sup>We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! <sup>11</sup>To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless.

<sup>12</sup>We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; <sup>13</sup>when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.