

Together — a study of 1 Corinthians
“Requirements for an Effective Church”
1 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:5
February 11, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

Churches will be Ineffective when:

1. Self-deception goes unchecked.

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness.” ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” 1 Corinthians 3:18-20

2. Personal preferences divide the Church.

²¹ So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours. 1 Corinthians 3:21

3. Personal Preferences limit God’s Wisdom and Power for the Church.

All things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, ²³ and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. 1 Corinthians 3:22-23

Churches will be Effective when it’s members:

1. are servants

¹ This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Jesus Christ. . . 1 Corinthians 4:1a

◆ **Hypēretēs (hūp-ā-re’-tās): servant; slave; bottom dweller**

2. are stewards of Jesus’ commission.

¹ This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Jesus Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 1 Corinthians 4:1

◆ **Oikonomos (oi-ko-no’-mos): servant; steward; houseservant; manager of the house**

3. are faithful to Jesus above all else.

² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2

4. seek Jesus’ approval only.

³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

Discussion Questions

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why did this “grab” you?
2. Based on 1 Corinthians 3:18-23, what are the three (3) things Pastor Shawn said can cripple a church’s effectiveness?
3. Based on 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, what are the four (4) things Pastor Shawn said can help a church become effective?
4. In this passage, what does it mean to “deceive yourselves”? How have you seen people “deceived” in the church? How have you seen “deceived” people influence the church? How may “self-deception” creep into a church?
5. What does Paul mean by saying “all things are yours” (3:21)? In what sense does everything Paul list belong to the Corinthians and to us?
6. Why do you think God requires faithfulness from His servants and stewards (4:2)?
7. What standards do we often use to evaluate God’s servants today? Why does Paul “care very little” about such judgments? (4:3-5)
8. How may you help PRCC avoid Paul’s 3 Warnings? Of the four (4) things Pastor Shawn shared, How may you help PRCC remain effective?