

# Camrose Way Housegroup

14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:5 – Leaders Version

These are my notes prepared before the study, plus additional points that came up in the discussion. For the APPLICATION questions, there are no right answers! Please feel free to tell me if there are any things you think are wrong .... Mike

The main focus of teaching this term is on the book of 1 Corinthians; how it will help guide us to be the church God desires us to be as we plan for the future.

The aim of the HG studies this term is less about going back through the detail of each passage but applying what we've heard from the passage on a Sunday. Therefore, our study notes focus less on the detail of each passage and more on the application questions.

This week we are looking at 1 Corinthians 3:6 – 4:21 following the sermons on the same passages on 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> July, which you can listen to at <https://www.stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk/pjp/mediaevent/search>

It is useful to compare different translations so that we don't focus on specific English words which may not be exact translations of the original Greek. The Message does a good job of explaining some of the cultural references such "guardians".

### Question 1: Intro Question

How should a church look different to the world around it?

*This is to get us thinking about the theme of what follows.*

By church, we mean the people, not the building.

It should look caring, compassionate, welcoming, non-judgemental, thinking, honest

Members of the church should act with integrity.

The church should be seen to be serving its local community.

It should proudly proclaim the gospel of Christ crucified

**Read: 1 Corinthians 3:16 – 4:5 (NIV)**

**Christ crucified is God's power and wisdom**

### Chapter 3

16. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?
17. If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.
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."
21. So then, no more boasting about human leaders! 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.

## Chapter 4

1. This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.
2. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.
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.

### Question 2:

Why does Paul want the Corinthians to grasp they are the temple of God (3:16)?

To show that as God's temple, God's spirit dwells in them and they are protected by God

To help stop divisions and personality cults.

### Question 3:

How are the Corinthians to think (1) of themselves (see 3:18–23) and (2) of the apostles (4:1–5)?

- (1) Belonging to Christ, humble, seeking wisdom, accepting the “foolishness of the gospel”, subject only to judgement of the LORD
- (2) Servants of Christ, faithful to Christ, guides into God's divine secrets, knowledgeable, non judgemental

### Question 4: APPLICATION

What difference does it make on a Sunday to see St Mary's as God's temple?

What do we mean by St. Mary's .. we mean the Church family, the PEOPLE

We are God's church and he is with us.

We have a responsibility to God and to each other

We respect each other

We feel peace, joy, loved by God

We can expect guidance from God

We come under God's protection.

We have an insight into God's mysteries

### Question 5: APPLICATION

Where am I tempted to elevate (1) myself or (2) leaders in the church? What would it look like to see me as part of the temple and my leaders as “servants and stewards?”

- (1) We compare ourselves to others and judge others, both individually and corporately.
- (2) We boast about the quality of our leaders, their devotion to the word of God, their ability to teach. We have multiple ordained ministers in our church. We have preferred preachers.

**Read: 1 Corinthians 4:6 - 4:21**

**Christ crucified is God's power and wisdom**

6. 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, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other.
7. 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?
8. Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign—and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you!
9. For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings.
10. We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honoured, we are dishonoured!
11. To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless.
12. We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;
13. when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment.
14. I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children.
15. Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
16. Therefore, I urge you to imitate me.
17. For this reason, I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.
18. Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you.
19. But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have.
20. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.
21. What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?

**Question 6:**

What's the difference between the life of the Corinthians and the apostles in 4:8–13?

**The Corinthians have used the church to elevate themselves**

**They act like Kings**

**They are at the head of the procession**

**They are looked up to as wise and strong**

**They are honoured**

**The apostles are treated like condemned men at the back of the parade**

**They are looked down on as foolish and weak, the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world**

**They are dishonoured**

**They go hungry and thirsty**

**They are brutally treated, homeless**

**They have to engage themselves in manual labour to support themselves**

When cursed they bless  
When persecuted, they respond with kindness

**Question 7:**

Why does he set out this difference? Whom does he want them to be like? See 4:14–17.

It is a warning. If they continue as they are, they will miss out on the Kingdom of God

Because they have no one to inspire them, only disciplinarians

He wants them to be like Christ by imitating him

**Question 8: APPLICATION**

What are our expectations of the Christian life—more like the Corinthians or the Apostles?

Hopefully like the apostles, but we enjoy our comfortable lives and (at least relative) prosperity.

Are we really prepared to be treated like the apostles, especially Paul?

Conclusion, we would like to think we are like the apostles, but in reality, we are more like the Corinthians. (This is probably the challenge that Rob wants us to pick up as a result of this series).

**Question 9: APPLICATION**

How do we feel about “imitating Paul” in his weakness?

Probably not keen!

But at times there are those of us who suffer a thorn in the flesh, hardship, mental problems, derision from others about our faith. The way in which Christians respond to such situations is an inspiration to those around them.

**Question 10: APPLICATION**

What does it look like to look weak to the world?

Question: Is it good to look weak to the world?

Persecuted, but responding with love

Ignored (like people standing in the town centre trying to get the attention of passers by)

Appearing to lack ambition

Content with our situation

**Question 11: APPLICATION**

How can we encourage one another to live looking weak to the world?

Prayer

Seek to serve one another and the community around us

Be alert to situations where people are working to look strong, striving for success in the wrong way

Not be afraid to talk to non-Christians about the “foolish Gospel”