

## Week 7 Discussion Questions

**Text:** 1 Cor 4:1-13

**Icebreaker:** On a scale of 1-10, how concerned are you about others' opinions of you?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out to you from the text or from the sermon you heard Sunday?

2. Paul tells the Corinthians to think of him and other ministers as "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." In what sense are ministry leaders both servants and stewards?

*Application:* How else, besides as servants and stewards, are ministry leaders regarded by people today?

3. Paul expresses a freedom from the judgment of others in verses 1-5. Where does he say this perspective comes from?

*Application:* What benefits can a church experience when its leaders are not overly consumed with trying to please people? What benefit can we all experience from a similar mindset?

4. Verses 6-7 cut to the core of the divisions in Corinth: "puffed up" pride. In response, how would you summarize the point Paul is making in verse 7?

*Application:* Think about your greatest achievements in life, including those areas you've worked hardest, whether in academics, athletics, career, etc. In what sense did you "receive" even these from God?

5. Paul sharply contrasts the Corinthians' experience with that of the apostles in verses 8-13. Why would Paul highlight the apostles' hardships and low standing in the world?

*Application:* Which can you relate to more if you think about your expectations for the Christian life—the kind of life the Corinthians experienced or that of the apostles?