

Week 8 Discussion Questions

Text: 1 Cor 4:14-21

Icebreaker: Who have you tried to imitate? In what area of life did you want to be like them?

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

2. These verses conclude not only chapter 4, but all of Paul's response to the Corinthian's division that began in verse 10 of chapter 1. Why do you think Paul seeks to clarify his motivations in verses 14-15 for what he has written so far?

Application: What difference do a person's motivations make when you are confronted by them (only hypothetically, right 😊)? What difference does it make if you know the person correcting you loves you?

3. In verses 15-16, Paul emphasizes the importance of a "father in Christ." How do you think "fathers" are different from those who are just spiritual guides?

Application: Who fits the role of a spiritual father or mother to you? Who are you a spiritual father or mother to...or who would you like to be in that role to?

4. As a father to them, Paul urges the Corinthians to imitate him. How can we make sense of this when he has just been admonishing them for saying "I follow Paul..." (1:12, 3:4-9, 3:22, 4:6)?

Application: Like Paul, are you comfortable asking others to follow your example? Why?

5. In verses 18-21, Paul underscores the importance of displaying the power of God's kingdom and not only the talk of it. What kind of things demonstrate God's kingdom power at work in a person's life?

Application: Think about your own life. Where do you see evidence that demonstrates God's power at work?