

1st Corinthians Chapter 4

March 11, 2026

Chapter 4. Should I come with a whip. Or with a gentle spirit? This is the essence of Chapter 4. Paul states his case as being the one that Christ used to found and establish the fellowship of Brothers. This may be unclear when previously he stated that he is nothing and Christ is all. The truth is, God does establish earthly representatives. But never lose sight that the representative is not Christ. Even so, the representative cannot be ignored.

Verses 1-7: We are Apostles. We are servants. We are Ambassadors. We speak on behalf of the King. We are missionaries. We are your earthly examples. Regard us in the right manner. And watch our lives lived before you. Paul says your opinion of me is of no importance to me. I know who I am and who's I am. This goes for Apollos also. Stick with the Scriptures and what has been taught by us. The point here is; "one may build on the foundation by keeping his work in tune with the one that laid the foundation. And that is done by being in perfect synchronization with the master builders the original architect assigned to the work.

Verses 8-13: Don't judge by earthly or worldly standards. Just because your leader is not rich or worldly affluent, does not mean he is not spiritually rich. Paul states that his earthly financial and political status put he and the others at the low end of societal wealth and affluence. In fact, they are more like outcasts. Just the opposite from the rich and famous. Many times, we choose our leaders on the wrong criteria.

Verses 14-21: Sometimes a message can be taken the wrong way. Paul states that he is not trying to shame them. (But it is an admonishment) But this is a word of discipline from a loving Father. He states that he is coming soon. And just as kids act up while the parents are away, Paul says I will see if you act up when I get there. For there is more to this walk with God than you see on the surface. It is more than rhetoric or knowledge gained from study. It is the "Power of God" working outwardly through the Saints from a presence of God within the Saints.