

A Healthy Church Part Five: Not Puffed Up

Relevant Bible Verses: 1 Corinthians 4 ; Luke 16:10 ; 1 Corinthians 3:13

Message Notes:

- We need to view ourselves as servants, working behind the scenes to promote the one who *should* be praised; the Alfred not the Batman.
- We are entrusted by the Father to do his will. When we're entrusted, we want to be faithful, carrying out our tasks and proving ourselves to the one who entrusted us, much in the same manner as kids being sent to the corner store by their parents.
- If we prove ourselves doing small things well, we will be entrusted with greater responsibilities.
- God is entrusting us with the mysteries of himself, such as the fact that he came in flesh to sacrifice himself for us. It doesn't matter what the world thinks of us, it only matters what God, the one who sent us, thinks. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4, *"I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself."* It is the Lord who judges us and, it is important to note, that Paul made the distinction of not even judging himself.
- Nothing will be hidden from God. It is important we build well and remember the power of what Jesus has done. He has already paid for us, there will be no screen behind us at the gates of Heaven displaying our sins; a screen would be blank as we are forgiven.
- When you come across a great teacher of God, don't fall into the trap of puffing them up. Be grateful to God for talking through them to you, praise him and not them, otherwise you are treating them as idols and setting them up for a fall. Everything they have is from God, *he* is the author.
- The Corinthians had been boasting of all they had become in Jesus. Paul reminded them of the arrogance of their viewpoint, as it seemed they thought that even the apostles weren't as righteous as the Corinthians. We are not to be servants to the viewpoint that *"We have arrived."*
- This is not to shame us, but to warn us. We are *all* servants, one and the same, not to puff up great leaders and teachers, knowing that all their knowledge is from God. Praise him, and don't lose sight of what we've been entrusted with or how well we are to carry out our task.
- Don't judge others, and don't worry about the judgement of others, including that from yourself. Cast yourself on the grace and mercy of God; he has already paid for us and our sins.
- Let's be humble, faithful, and let us do what God has entrusted us to do.