

STEWARDS OF OUR LIVES

1 Corinthians 4.1-8

SERVANTS AND STEWARDS

The Corinthians had an out of balance, celebrity view of their leaders. Paul tells them, "here is how you should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."

Servants: This isn't the word Paul usually uses for "servant." This one seems to denote a lower servant, even someone called an "under-rower," the person who would be in the lower hull of a ship rowing.

Stewards: Stewards aren't owners, but caretakers. They are to be faithful with what is entrusted to them, taking care for their Master.

Hebrews 13.17

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

Because it is God who judges, and because we are just stewards, we should be careful about our judgment of our leaders, but also upon everyone in our lives. Paul says that they are practicing what they preach to be an example to them of not going beyond Scripture, imposing preferences and wrongful expectations upon people.

The Corinthians had an attitude that they were already know-it-alls who had what they needed, while these spiritual leaders were laboring and toiling for them. And so he asks three reflective questions:

1. **Who sees anything different in you? (How are you any different than us?)**
2. **What do you have that you didn't receive?**
3. **If you received it, why do you boast as if you didn't receive it?**

These questions, answered correctly, should humble us towards both our leaders and every other person we encounter in our lives.

WE MUST BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF EVERYTHING

We often hear the word "stewardship" and think of money or time right off the bat. But *everything* we have has been given to us to take care of properly and faithfully. A steward is to be found as *faithful*. However, we act like many things are things we are entitled to, like our rights, comfort, happiness, opinions, preferences, choice of friends and social circles, etc.

**When we get angry it's us saying
"God, I deserve a better life than the one You've given me."**

-Tim Keller

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, is there anyone who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **1 Corinthians 4.1-8**. What stands out to you in this passage, and what stuck out to you most from the sermon on Sunday? _____

How does Paul describe what Apostles/Pastors/Leaders should be like? How is that in contrast with what the Corinthians were doing? _____

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

There are some implicit and important elements that point us to the Gospel in this passage. Say you are tempted to judge or question a friend, pastor, or church on a matter that isn't explicitly wrong or sinful. What truths here can you bring to mind that connect you to the Gospel? (Hint: **verses 5-7; Matthew 18.21-35** for more). _____

Repent and Confess

Have you gone "beyond what is written" in expecting certain standards from others? Have you judged quickly when you observe someone's decisions? Spouses, friends, pastors, churches, bosses...you name it, we like to pre-judge and do it quickly, often with very little information. What could you confess and repent of that you hope to grow in? _____

Ask for Provision

In light of this passage and the above confession, what might you ask for from God? Wisdom, patience, discernment, and slow speech? Could you also be in need of trusting God's sovereignty and His appointment of the spiritual leaders He has called to shepherd the flock? Or humility to listen to others who speak into your life? Or the perspective to become a sacrificial and faithful "under-rower" and steward? Read **Hebrews 13.17**. What benefit do you (and the church) get when you take heed to this passage? _____

Your Life Mission

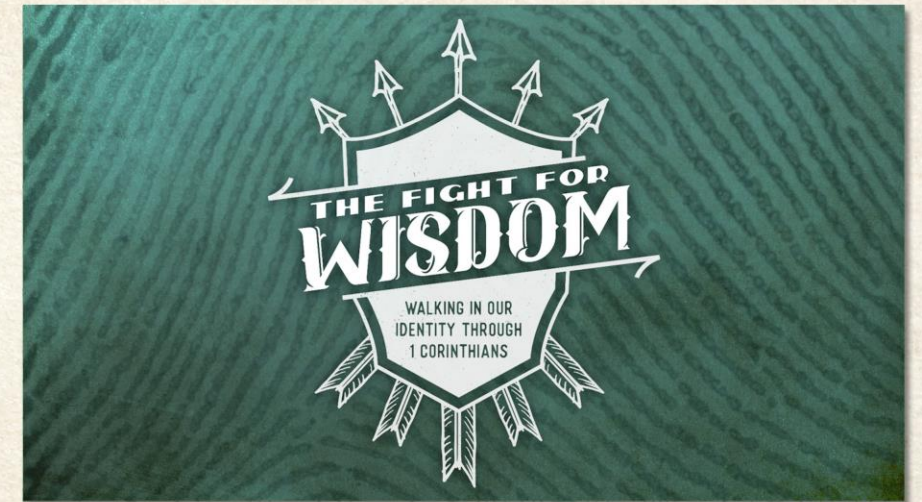
As "under-rowers" and stewards, God has placed us in and around the lives of many people who are currently cut off from Him. How might you become an under-rower in their life as you aim to faithfully steward these God-given relationships? What conversations or encounters are upcoming that you could use prayer for? _____

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Make sure to end your time of prayer **Yielding with Thanksgiving** for God's sovereignty and plan for your life.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

**MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.**



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1 Corinthians 4:1-8 // April 22, 2018

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

