

# *I Corinthians*

## (9) Worldly Thinking on Display

1 Cor 4:6-17

6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. 7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

8 Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings – and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you! 9 For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. 10 We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! 11 To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. 12 We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; 13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.

14 I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. 15 Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me. 17 For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. NIV

### Paul becomes sarcastic...4:6-15

Why had Paul used himself and Apollos in his object lessons? 4:6b; **3:1-4:5**

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So what was really at the heart of their divisions? 4:6b-7; 15:10; **Eph.2:3-5**

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What is Paul's sarcastic point in 4:8? **James 4:13-16**; Gal.6:3; Rom.12:3, 16

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What does he point out next? 4:9; Heb.10:32-33; **ITim.3:10-11**; Acts 13:48-50

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And what does he affirm to these proud Corinthians? 4:10-13, 10:12; **IICor.12:7-10**

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What is the contrast Paul sarcastically emphasizes in 4:10?

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What's Paul's word to them in 4:14? 4:15; IICor.7:3; **IThess.2:11, 5:14**

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How does he encourage them now? 4:15-17, **11:1**, 16:10; Heb.13:7; Phil.3:17

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And finally, what is his warning to them? 4:18-21; **IICor.10:1-6**

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What is a summary of Paul's words to them so far? **1:26-31, 5:6**,

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### Paul becomes sarcastic...4:6-15

Why had Paul used himself and Apollos in his object lessons? 4:6b; 3:1-4:5

**To avoid direct embarrassment to some at Corinth. Learn from us! From what's written.**

So what was really at the heart of their divisions? 4:6b-7; 15:10; Eph.2:3-5

**It was their own selfish pride. They knew everything! Boasting as if it was all them!**

What is Paul's sarcastic point in 4:8? James 4:13-16; Gal.6:3; Rom.12:3, 16

**They were self-confident. Were rich, were kings, needed nothing! Rev.3:14-19. Repent!**

What does he point out next? 4:9; Heb.10:32-33; IITim.3:10-11; Acts 13:48-50

**It seems to Paul that God has put Apostles as those conquered and condemned to death!**

And what does he affirm to these proud Corinthians? 4:10-13, 10:12; IICor.12:7-10

**We're fools for Christ, weak, dishonored, hungry, mistreated. Cursed... But you...!**

What is the contrast Paul sarcastically emphasizes in 4:10?

**We're fools for Christ; you are so wise. We're weak, dishonored, you're strong, honored.**

What's Paul's word to them in 4:14? 4:15; IICor.7:3; IThess.2:11, 5:14

**My words are not to shame you, but rather to warn you, as my dear children. Pleading!**

How does he encourage them now? 4:15-17, 11:1, 16:10; Heb.13:7; Phil.3:17

**As your father (spiritually), I'm pleading, imitate me! I'm sending Timothy to guide you!**

And finally, what is his warning to them? 4:18-21; IICor.10:1-6

**Talk is cheap! I'm planning to come to you. Shall it be with a whip or gently, in love?**

What is a summary of Paul's words to them so far? 1:26-31, 5:6,

**Your boasting/divisions are astounding! Your worldliness/pride is on display to everyone.**