

# Looking to Jesus

*1 Corinthians 3:21-4:5 So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours,<sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours,<sup>23</sup> and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. <sup>1</sup>This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. <sup>2</sup>Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. <sup>3</sup>I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.*

## **Paul knew who he was and his purpose.**

*2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

## **Paul was not concerned about his image**

*<sup>3</sup> I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.*

“Are we talking about high self-esteem? No. So is it low self-esteem? Certainly not. It is not about self-esteem. Paul simply refuses to play that game. He says ‘I don’t care about your opinion but, I don’t care that much about my opinion’—and that is the secret”  
—Tim Keller, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness

## **Paul was aware of the real judgment to come**

*5 He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.*

*Romans 14:12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*

## **May we follow Paul’s example**

*1 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me.*

## **May we be truly found in Christ!**

*Inspiring words about Identity (From 1 Corinthians 1:2-9)*

To the Corinthians Paul says

You are ... **sanctified** in Christ Jesus

You are **called**

You are **holy**

You have been **given grace**

You are **enriched** in speech and knowledge

You **do not lack** any spiritual gift

Jesus Christ will keep you firm to the end

You **will be blameless**

**Why? Because God is faithful**

You have been **called into fellowship** with his Son

*Sobering words about Judgment from Jesus*

*Luke 12:4-9 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. "I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God.*