

Women's Bible Study

Study Questions for February 8, 2017

Unity in Doctrine ~ Angie Pankratz
1 Corinthians 4

1. What are the first two words of Chapter 4? What does that tell you about how this chapter connects with chapter 3? Many commentators feel like those two words connect chapter 4 back to 3:5-9 and 3:21-23. Does that change how you read this part of Paul's letter to the church of Corinth?
2. Look closely at 4:1-2. What do you think the words "must prove faithful" are speaking about? How does this differ from "earning" our salvation? Find Scripture references that show that we cannot earn our salvation but once we are saved, we must be good stewards of that which we've been entrusted.
3. Summarize verses 4:3-5. Is Paul telling us that we should never judge? Read Proverbs 31:9, Leviticus 19:15, 1 John 4:1, Rev. 2:2. Do these verses contradict with the message Paul is bringing to the church of Corinth? (Hint...The Bible never contradicts itself) So when should we judge and when should we "judge not."
4. Paul refers to himself as an apostle on display and a spectacle to the whole universe. For good reasons or bad, name a time in your life when you felt like you were on display. Did you use that time for God's glory? Looking back, how would you have used your time in the "lime light" differently?
5. Look again at verse 16. If you're unfamiliar with Paul's testimony, it might be easy to assume he is arrogant with such a statement. Find three other passages in the Bible in which Paul speaks of himself and shows quite the opposite... how he is a humble servant of Christ.
6. Read verse 20, Matthew 7:21 and Romans 8:11. Words are always necessary when evangelizing and discipling others, but what is Paul referring to here saying that the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power?

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1. In the first two verses of chapter 4 Paul says we've been entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed and that we must be faithful with what we've been entrusted. What do you think those mysteries are that Paul is speaking about? Of course, none of us is perfect, but how have you been faithful with what God has entrusted you?

2. Read verse 3 again. Should we as Christians ever be concerned with what others think of us? Now look ahead and read 1 Corinthians 8:9 When should we not take lightly the opinions others have of us and when should ignore what others think of us?

3. The concept of v. 7 is very counter-cultural because we all want credit for any blessings in our lives. We may pretend to be humble, but ultimately we are all hoping someone notices, right? (Tell me I'm not alone in wanting credit for the good in my life!) With vulnerability list an area (or two) in your life where you may need a reminder that you are "nothing" without God.

4. Read verse 9 again. Name a Christian who is "on display." Are they having a positive impact on Christianity? What does Matthew 5:16 remind us of our ultimate goal if we should ever be "on display?"

5. In John 16:33 Jesus clearly tells us that in this world we will have troubles. List the troubles Paul mentions in chapter 4 that he has had to endure. What hope does James 1:12 offer us about the trials we will face in this world? What struggles are you dealing with now that you are grateful will not last forever?