

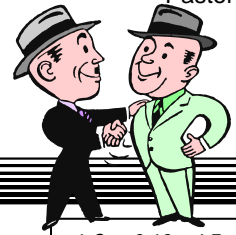
Text: 1 Corinthians 3:18 – 4:7
Topic: Leadership. Perspective.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 17
Series: 3 of 5

Focal Point Radio Ministries
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Message # 02-31
Pastor Mike

part 3

People Who Make a Difference

Working On Your Public Relations



When You've Made a Difference in Someone's Life...

* **Remind them to...**

1. Beware _____ (3:18-21a)

* **Remind them...**

2. You're _____ (3:21b-23)

* **Remind them...**

3. You _____ (4:1-5)

* **Remind them that...**

4. Their _____ (4:6-7)

1 Cor. 3:18 – 4:7

^{3:18} Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." ²¹ So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. ^{4:1} So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. ² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. ³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. 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? (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. Paul was concerned that the Corinthians properly understood his role (and the role of other leaders) in their lives. How much thought have you given to the way you are perceived by those in whom you are making a difference? When have you had to correct someone's thinking about your role in his or her life?

Describe the potential damage that could be done if the people you are positively influencing become prideful, arrogant or divisive about you or the impact you are making on them.

2. Why might someone rationalize his or her "exclusive" impact on another person's spiritual growth?

Who in your sphere of influence might be tempted to think that you are the *only* source of truth or instruction for them? Why do you think this is an applicable concern for *parents* in addition to disciplers, mentors and Bible study leaders?

3. In what subtle ways might you be tempted to please those you are influencing more than the God who has commissioned you to be an influence?

What are some of the ramifications if you were to give in to your desire to be liked when being liked conflicts with the counsel you know you should give someone?

4. How does an understanding of grace change everything when it comes to leading and leadership?

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Ezk.25-26 & Heb.4

Monday

Ezk.27-28 & Heb.5

Tuesday

Ezk.29-30 & Heb.6

Wednesday

Ezk.31-32 & Heb.7

Thursday

Ezk.33-34 & Heb.8

Friday

Ezk.35-36 & Heb.9

Saturday

Ezk.37-38 & Heb.10

Here are some resources to help keep everyone's priorities in line when you are making a difference in someone else's life.

Carson, D. A. ***A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers.*** Baker Books, 1992.

_____. ***The Cross and Christian Ministry.*** Baker Books, 1993.

Fabarez, Mike. ***Politicking: Breaking Stride with the World's Campaign Manager.*** Message #00-09.

_____. ***Power Plays: Some Losing Strategies for People of Influence.*** Message #99-29.

Finzel, Hans. ***The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make.*** Victor Books, 1994.

Murray, Andrew. ***Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness.*** Reprint. Bethany House, 2001.

Sanders, Oswald. ***Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer.*** Revised. Moody Press, 1994.

Wilkes, Gene. ***Jesus Leadership: Discovering the Secrets of Servant Leadership.*** Tyndale House, 1998.