

## HONEST RELATIONSHIPS

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 #10

February 14, 2006

Intro:

- \* With all the cynicism how can you have an "honest to God relationship"?
  - This book is how "**NOT**" to do church.
  - \* The first subject he deals with is relationship...
  - \* A lack of honesty was the main problem as they lined up behind personalities instead lining up behind God & His truth.
- 3:18-23 remember the context..  
This text gives us the simple formula to have honest to God relationships.

### I. **WE NEED HONEST ACCOUNTING (4:1a)**

- A. "**Account**"- financial accounting, make sure the balances line up.
1. Why? Paul under scrutiny after he leaves Corinth- they said, "Paul has ulterior motives", "Paul is in it for the money", etc.
  2. Why he begins with relationships- **they soon forgot the sacrifice that he made to reach & train them.**

- \* When we make a mistake in counting it can be very costly.

#### **Example**

**Mark 15:28** "And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was **numbered** with the transgressors.

- \* Same Greek word as **in 1 Cor. 4:1 Jesus was crucified= "bad accounting"**  
They miscalculated; they numbered him with the transgressors- when he was SINLESS!

**(Bad accounting can bring horrible consequences- good accounting can be a great blessing.)**

#### **Example:**

#### **Romans 4:1-4**

"What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was **counted** unto him for righteousness."

- \* Before Abram was circumcised or did anything for God.
  - \* Genuine salvation not based on anything that we can do, but proper counting. Have you counted right yet? Don't mess up the balance sheet up.
  - \* What **religion says, "here is what you have to do"**- messes up the balance sheet.
- Romans 4:4** "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of **debt.**"
- God puts their works in the debt category- mess up the accounting.
- \* Example: Someone deposits \$25 mil. In your account- you would be thankful.

- \* **Why Paul brings up Abraham's name is the same offer to him is to us.**  
**- Not working but believing-**

**Rom 4:5** "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

- \* God says, "You believe & I'll count that for righteousness."

- \* **Some think now that I am saved I'll "do" to gain God's favor.**

**Romans 6:13** "Neither **yield** ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but **yield** yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God."

- \* **It is NOT what we DO but we have a choice- based on Romans 6:11**

"Likewise **reckon** (**count, account**) ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- \* Remember 1 Corinthians 3 "carnality" destroys relationships.
  - When we operate in the power of the flesh- so we mess up our accounting.
  - We don't like it when some one else messes up our accounts!
- \* So how do so we can have good accounting?

## **II. WE NEED A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR ROLE & REPSONSILITIES (4:1b-2)**

1 Cor. 4:1-2 What this means in today's world.

- Biblical accountability comes from understanding our roles...
  - I need to understand what God made me
  - I need to understand expects of me...my rolls & responsibility.
- Important for our vertical & horizontal relationships.

**Example:** Basketball players can function when each players knows his role & responsibility on the team. (Who is the point guard etc.)

**NOTE:** Why marriages fail- rolls & responsibilities unknown.

### **A. We have two rolls**

1. **Ministers of Christ- "servant"** (cp 3:5)
  - a. The word can be either minister or servant-
  - b. The **word here** very specific- ("**under-oarsman**") (typical two rows of rowers) super-  
ships (three rows of rowers)
    - We are under oarsmen-  
So why line up behind a superstar, our accounting is messed up.
    - Titles not allowed.
2. **Stewards of the mysteries** - some one who is an overseer, manages the goods for another- all the goods, administrator or manager.  
Paul says these are our roles!  
Stewardship far more than money!  
Of the mysteries of the bible - 7 distinct in the NT (truths that were hidden before Christ)  
Stewards of His truth! God has put His truth into your hands- what will you do with it?

\* God **wants us out of OWNERSHIP & into MANAGEMENT!**  
Paul knew his roles: Servant & steward

### **B. WE have ONE responsibility- FAITHFULNESS (4:2)**

1. To be in the word & prayer
2. To witness to anyone that passes my way

## **III. WE NEED HOLY CONFIDENCE (4:3-4)**

**NOTE:** What kills relationship more than anything else- insecurity?

If I don't know what God made to be then I will vulnerable to what other think. (teens)

\* Answer- know who made you & what He made you to be- then you will be secure.

\* Now you know who you are & what He expects.

### **A. Paul says, "I don't care what you think because".**

1. **4:3** The rumors went in one ear & out the other.
2. **4:4** I have a clear conscience -so call me whatever

**Acts 24:16** "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and *toward* men.

**NOTE: So make sure you have a clean conscience before God.**

**1 Jn 3:20-21** "For if **our heart condemn** us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if **our heart condemn us not**, *then* have we **confidence** toward God."

#### **IV. WE NEED HEAVENLY PATIENCE (4:5)**

A. **Impatience kills relationships**- they were so busy judging everyone that the church was falling apart.

1. Do you have the patience with others like God had with you? (Tony G illustration)
2. When He is working in our lives we want patience- but in others?

**2 Cor. 10:12** "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

**Rom 14:4** " Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."

#### **B. How do you develop patience in relationships?**

1. **James 1:2-4** "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

2. **Rom. 5:3** " And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

- We have problems when we become impatient- trying of your faith- tribulation.

**NOTE:** So expect difficulties in relationships if they are to grow.