

September 27th, 2026

Do I Admire Jesus?
1 Corinthians 4:8-21

Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign—and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you! ⁹For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! ¹¹To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. ¹²We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment. ¹⁴I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children.
1 Corinthians 4:8-14 (NIV)

*The gospel changes what we _____
and therefore, who we _____.*

OVERVIEW

- Arrogant religion (v. 8)
- Humble religion (vv.9-13)
- Compassionate religion (vv.14-17)
- Accountable religion (vv.18-21)

IMPLICATIONS

1. Do I recognize _____ of Christianity? Matt 20:26; Luke 9:23; John 13:35
2. Do I admire Jesus? What is _____ my admiration? Ps 115:8; 2Cor 3:18
3. Does _____ make Jesus worth admiring? Matt 5:16; Col 1:10

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

If you could spend an hour with any athlete, historical figure, or public leader (past or present), who would you choose and why? What is it about them that you admire?

Paul says the Corinthians had adopted the values of their culture more than the values of Jesus. What are some messages our culture constantly teaches us about what a successful or meaningful life looks like? Which of those messages do you find most tempting to believe?

The message asked the question, "What is discipling my admiration?" Looking at your own life, what most shapes the way you think about success, significance, or identity (social media, news, career, family, friends, politics, entertainment, etc.)? How can you intentionally allow Jesus to shape those things instead?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 together. Paul says we are transformed as we behold Christ. What practical habits or rhythms help you keep your eyes on Jesus during the week? Where do you find it hardest to admire Him above everything else?

Paul told the Corinthians, "Imitate me," because he was following Christ. If someone spent a week watching your life—your priorities, conversations, reactions, and relationships—what would they conclude you admire most? What is one area where you want your life to point people more clearly to Jesus?



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IMPLICATIONS

1. Do I recognize competing visions of Christianity? Matt 20:26; Luke 9:23; John 13:35
2. Do I admire Jesus? What is disciplining my admiration? Ps 115:8; 2Cor 3:18
3. Does my life make Jesus worth admiring? Matt 5:16; Col 1:10

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