## 1 CORINTHIANS

Seeing Life through the Mind of Christ

Stewards of the Mysteries of God 1 Corinthians 3:18-4:5



- 1. Do you see relationships in the text that are contrary to our human "norms."
  - A. V 3:21 between spiritual leaders and those they "feed"? Mutual belonging? Each has a "stake," an investment, in the other.
  - B. V 4:1 what about the spiritually gifted leaders, how should they view themselves and how should believers view them? 1 Cor 3:5-7; Deut 10:12, Col 3:24-25
  - C. Your view of yourself in relationship to Jesus Christ? 3:22, 4:1, Rom 8:9

1 Cor. 3:21-23 So let no one boast in men [this will divide you be you will line up with your human leaders]. For 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 Christ's, and Christ is God's. (ESV)

2. Do we have any responsibility in Christ to pass along to others a spiritual truth we receive?

## A. As a steward:

- 1. Not the owner but the manager, the "distributor" of the owner's "stuff"
- 2. Entrusted to "invest," to build, to give away.
  - Parable of the three servants. Matt 25:15f
- 3. Accountable to be faithful, rather than successful. God cause growth.
  - 4:2
  - 3:5-8

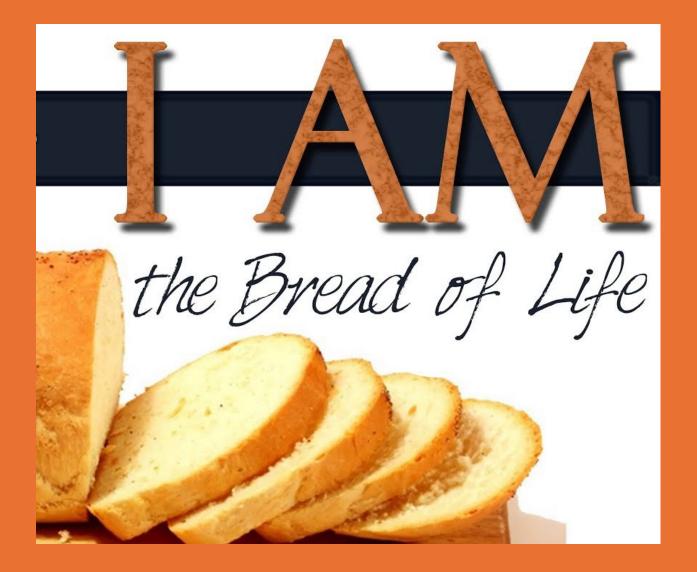
- 2. (Cont) Do we have any responsibility in Christ to pass along to others a spiritual truth we receive?
- What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup> He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. (1 Cor. 3:5-8 ESV)





- 3. The mysteries of God are without end. They are like buried treasures we must find to possess.
  - A. The cross of Jesus is a declaration of the love of God. It reveals the extent to which Jesus will go to find me, to save me, to invest in me.1 Cor 1:18
  - B. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit enables me to accomplish what I cannot accomplish on my own. 1 Cor 12; 1 Peter 4:10.
  - C. My worth to God, and to his people, is dependent upon partaking of the spiritual food He offers me. 1 Cor 3:1, 1 Peter 2:2





## Next steps:

- 1. How are you doing in seeking the "treasures" of God? Do you have any personal questions of a spiritual nature? Why not write them down and begin your own search, in scripture, for the answers?
- 2. Is there one thing that you have received in this worship service that you can pass on to someone else? Will you ask God to "assign" you an opportunity to do so?