

1 Corinthians 4

Chapter 4 of 16 · 21 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Ministry of Apostles

¹ Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

⁴ For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

⁶ And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

⁷ For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

⁸ Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

⁹ For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

Paul's Fatherly Admonition

14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

21 What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Angel — ἄγγελος (Angelos)

Angel, messenger

The Greek **angelos** (ἄγγελος) means angel or messenger. Angels announced Christ's birth (Luke 2:9-14), ministered to Him (Matthew 4:11), and will accompany His return (Matthew 25:31).

Faith — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Gospel — εὐαγγέλιον (Euangelion)

Good news, gospel

The Greek **euangelion** (εὐαγγέλιον) means good news or gospel—the message of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection. It's 'the power of God unto salvation' (Romans 1:16).

Kingdom — βασιλεία (Basileia)

Kingdom, reign

The Greek **basileia** (βασιλεία) means kingdom—both the realm ruled and the exercise of royal authority. The 'kingdom of God' is central to Jesus' teaching, representing God's saving rule breaking into history.

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 4:1

References God: Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 4:10. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 24:45; Ephesians 1:9; 6:19; 1 Timothy 3:9. **References Christ:** Romans 16:25; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Colossians 2:2; 4:3

1 Corinthians 4:2

Faith: 1 Corinthians 7:25; Numbers 12:7; Proverbs 13:17; Matthew 25:21; 25:23; Luke 12:42; Colossians 1:7. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2; Colossians 4:17

1 Corinthians 4:3 Judgment: 1 Corinthians 2:15; John 7:24

1 Corinthians 4:4

Righteousness: Job 25:4; 27:6; Psalms 143:2; Romans 2:13. **References Lord:** Psalms 130:3; Proverbs 21:2. **Parallel theme:** Job 40:4; Psalms 19:12; 2 Corinthians 1:12. **Judgment:** 1 Corinthians 4:5

1 Corinthians 4:5

References Lord: 2 Corinthians 10:18; James 5:7. **Judgment:** Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 2:1; 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12. **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 3:13; Hebrews 4:13. **Resurrection:** Romans 2:29

1 Corinthians 4:6

Parallel theme: 1 Corinthians 3:19; 5:6; 8:1; Romans 12:3; 2 Corinthians 4:15; 11:4; 12:6; 12:19; Colossians 2:18; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

1 Corinthians 4:7

Parallel theme: 1 Corinthians 15:10; Proverbs 2:6; Luke 19:13; John 1:16; 3:27; Romans 1:5; 12:3; 12:6; James 1:17; 1 Peter 4:10

1 Corinthians 4:8 Kingdom: Revelation 5:10. **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 1:5; 5:6; Proverbs 13:7; Luke 6:25; 2 Corinthians 13:9; Galatians 6:3. **References God:** Romans 12:3

1 Corinthians 4:9 Creation: Hebrews 10:33. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 44:22; Acts 19:29; 19:31; Romans 8:36; 2 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 3:3; Hebrews 1:14; 11:36

1 Corinthians 4:10

Parallel theme: 1 Corinthians 2:3; 3:18; Acts 17:18; 26:24; 2 Corinthians 13:9. **References**
Christ: 1 Peter 4:14

1 Corinthians 4:11

Parallel theme: 1 Corinthians 9:4; Job 22:6; Matthew 8:20; Acts 14:19; 16:23; 23:2; Romans 8:35; 2 Corinthians 4:8; Philippians 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:11

1 Corinthians 4:12 **Evil:** Matthew 5:11; 1 Peter 2:23; 3:9. **Blessing:** Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28; Romans 12:14. **Parallel theme:** Luke 23:34; Acts 18:3; Romans 12:20; 1 Peter 3:14

1 Corinthians 4:13 **Creation:** Lamentations 3:45

1 Corinthians 4:14 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 4:15; 9:15; Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 2:11; 5:14; 3 John 1:4. **Love:** 2 Corinthians 12:19

1 Corinthians 4:15 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 3:10; 9:14; 9:23. **References Christ:** Galatians 4:19

1 Corinthians 4:16 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 5:3

1 Corinthians 4:17

References Lord: 1 Corinthians 7:17; 16:10. **Faith:** 1 Corinthians 7:25; 1 Timothy 1:2; Revelation 2:10; 2:13. **Love:** 2 Timothy 1:2. **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 11:2; 14:33; 16:1

1 Corinthians 4:18 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 5:2

1 Corinthians 4:19 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 2:6; 4:18; 11:34; Acts 18:21; 19:21; Romans 15:32; 2 Corinthians 1:23; Hebrews 6:3. **References Lord:** James 4:15

1 Corinthians 4:20

Word: 1 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5. **Kingdom:** Romans 14:17. **References God:** 1 Corinthians 1:24; Romans 1:16; 15:19

1 Corinthians 4:21 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 1:23; 2:1; 2:3; 10:6; 13:2; 13:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7; James 3:17

