

👉 It's sad when people have mixed motives in serving God.

1. Paul had to deal with the, often, incorrect way that people in the Church at Corinth treated him.

- ✓ Some exalted him above his actual status setting him above all other ministers. Others didn't respect his position near enough and accused him of mixed motives in his service. Both groups were confused about the role that Paul and other ministers actually played. What would happen in the workplace if employees were confused about the role of a particular key leader or worker? The Corinthians were confused about the role of the preachers and leaders that God had sent to them.

2. 1st Corinthians 4:1-5; Paul presents an accurate view of preachers and teachers, and He focuses on three things.

- 1) Their Identity, 1 Corinthians 4:1, "servants", is not the typical word for servant ("bond-servant") but another word that referred to a particular slave in the Roman system, the "Under-rower". The Under-rower was a slave on the bottom tier of a Roman war ship who was chained to the oars and were otherwise called galley slaves. They were under the command of the captain of the ship who told them to go forward, stop, back up, turn left or right. Paul was saying that preachers, teachers, and leaders are galley slaves of Jesus Christ.
- 2) "Stewards;" The steward was the slave in the Greek household who managed all the affairs of the Master of the house.
 - ✓ This slave had run of the entire house (like Joseph in Potiphar's house) and would have been one who was completely trusted. But Paul doesn't say that they had run of the entire church but were, instead, stewards of the "mysteries of God" They were stewards of the provisions of the house to make sure all were fed properly (we still see the term in flight attendants being called stewards or stewardesses). Similarly, Paul and the other leaders to rationed out the Word of God to feed the people, but unlike a stewardess on a flight, they didn't ask you what you wanted but instead asked the Master what He wanted them to have, Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 3:16-17. 2nd Timothy 4:1-2, they only dispensed one thing, God's Word.

3. Who does the preacher or leader report to?

- ✓ Notice Paul didn't answer to them, 1st Corinthians 4:3. Not talking about the day to day things that he did or his responsibilities in any particular thing, but to his motives. The devil is always after good leaders and would love to use us to tear them down, be careful of the "gift of suspicion." 1st Corinthians 4:3-4, the Leaders would answer to God about their hearts. 1st Corinthians 4:5-6, we are not motive judges but sin judges of morality and doctrine = "not beyond what is written".

Jesus is the only one who completely understands a person. We are breaking this when we have the least word about why someone does what they do.
