

## The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 17, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:14-17, Follow Me

- ☞ Paul has them squirming with his biting sarcasm in previous verses, but now that he has their attention, he changes his tone.
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:14-17, can you say that? We should be able to say that. Paul could say, "Don't just do as I say, do as I do." We sometimes hear church leaders say, "Don't follow me, follow Jesus." That notion is foreign to the Scriptures, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9; 1 Peter 5:3; Hebrews 13:7. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:17 Paul's talk and walk were congruent!
- 
- 

### **1. The Bible everywhere teaches that our walk is vastly more important than our talk, James 3:13; 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:17-18; Mark 7:6.**

- ✓ The essence of hypocrisy is to have a life that disagrees with what we profess.

### **2. You may think that you don't have the same responsibilities since you are not a minister like Paul.**

- ✓ Did you know that you are a walking advertisement? If you carry the title "Christian" you carry the name of Christ. "Christ" is the heading of your advertisement and underneath is a blank space that you fill in every day with your actions. Every day the world reads "Christ," but what description have you given underneath?

### **3. Paul says, "imitate me," "follow me" we need to be able to say the same thing.**

- ✓ The paradigm of the entire New Testament is "follow me," Jesus says, "follow me and I will make you fishers of men," Paul says, "follow me even as follow Jesus." It's still that way today, "Follow me as I follow Christ." If they followed you, where would they wind up? "Do as I say and not as I do" is another way of saying, "I don't believe this stuff either." We need to take a careful look at what our actions are saying about what we believe.

**We've got a world that is playing follow the leader, looking to us for the truth and it first has to be seen in our actions.**

---

---

---

---