

November 12, 2017  
I Corinthians 4  
Guides and Fathers

- Vs 14 “I do not write these things to make you ashamed,”
  - We must determine what “these things” are
    - Verses 6-13 Paul is calling out the arrogant behavior of the Corinthians - his tone is sarcastic
      - Vs 6-7 you're proud of what you have received, acting as though you produced it on your own
      - Vs 8 Paul sarcastically says that they have all they want, totally mature, even to the point of reigning in the kingdom
      - Vs 9-13 he contrasts their behavior with how the apostles are treated
        - We are made a spectacle, paraded around the city as defeated enemies whose ultimate end is the arena where everyone will watch them die.
        - We are fools but you *think* you are wise
        - We are weak but you *think yourselves* are strong
        - You *think* you are honored but we are dishonored
        - We are hungry, thirsty, poorly dressed, beat up, homeless, scratching out a living with our hands,
        - Yet we bless when reviled, endure when persecuted, entreat when slandered, viewed as garbage, as table scraps
          - Think of Paul at the Areopagus of in Athens in Acts 17 - a buffet of philosophical ideas were people could fill their plate with all that was offered and after tasting it discard what they did not find palatable.
    - Paul is saying these things not to shame them but to admonish them
      - Why would Paul bring up shame? Because he knew that what he was saying was hard to hear, and it could cause the Corinthians to spiral into despair over their actions
        - This is not his goal- rather he wants to firmly warn them, to prompt them out of themselves and into life in Christ - like a loving father will do with his children
  - Vs 15a countless guides in Christ
    - One trip to a Christian book store is enough to leave a believer scratching their head in bewilderment. What is gold and precious stones and what is straw and hay-

