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**Romans 14:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

**INTRODUCTION**

The lesson of servanthood, by itself, is often a difficult task. To learn to serve before we can lead goes against human nature in our attempt to get to the top of the corporate ladder. But if we think about it, trying to lead before we learn to serve is like trying to run before we know how to walk! This lesson takes this training one step further. We will attempt to learn how to be a humble servant! In our occupational lives it is difficult not to tell the boss how well we've accomplished the tasks he or she has put before us, for we believe if we don't "blow our own horn" no one will notice. That is what the world has taught us to believe. In our Christian walk, we are taught to do the very best that we can despite the task set before us and without concerning ourselves about being applauded by our Pastor or other church leadership. However, it's difficult to lead two separate lives; humble servant in God's house and a "in your face" servant in man's house. One will bleed over into the other and unfortunately, the world's view will bleed the most. What's a Christian to do?

**Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

<sup>2</sup> Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

<sup>3</sup> But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

<sup>4</sup> For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Vs. 1 – Paul wants the Corinthians to think of him and Apollos who and what they are, servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. (A steward is someone who is put in charge or to take personal care of something. Joseph was a steward in Potiphar's house. (See Gen. 32:2-19))

Vs. 2 – A good steward must faithful. Success must not be the focus of the steward, because we already learned that, one steward plants and another waters. It is God that gives the increase. A Pastor's goal is to teach and preach the word of God to bring men to repentance unto salvation. The goal is not to increase the number of pews in the church building. So, he should preach to 40 as fervently as to 4,000. (See Jeremiah 7:25-27)

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Vs. 3 – 4 It doesn't matter to Paul whether the Corinthians think highly of him or not as long as he is doing what God has called him to do. In fact, it doesn't matter what Paul thinks of himself. Why? Because Paul knows that the only judgment that really matters comes from God. Should we take in consideration corrective criticism from fellow workers in Christ? (See Ex. 18:13-26)

Vs 5 – Man has a perceived notion of what is successful and what is not. God's view in the results of the matter will probably be totally different, since God knows His own intentions and the intentions of the servant being judged. Man cannot know the heart as God does. Man cannot know the dark secret places in God's service just as man cannot know about the blood, sweat and tears shed by God's servant.