

01 Servants of Christ Entrusted with God's Mysteries

Verse: 1 Corinthians 4:1-8

찬양 : 예수 나를 오라 하네(새 324), 나 주님의 기쁨 되기 원하네(경 22)

◎ **Opening of the Heart:** Lead the group in sharing QT revelations and thankful events

◎ **Opening of the Word:**

[Reading of the Word] Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-8 together

[Understanding the Background] 1 Corinthians is a letter from the Apostle Paul to the Church of Corinth, written on about 55 A.D., during his third missionary journey from Ephesus where he stayed for three years. The Corinthian Church was founded by Apostle Paul when he stayed in Corinth for about a year and a half during his second missionary journey. At this time of Roman Empire, Corinth was a major maritime hub of the Mediterranean, with flourishing commerce. As many foreigners came and went, the city was filled with paganism and obscene culture of fornication. The church at Corinth was divided because of cultural and ethical conflicts between Gentiles and Jews who had become accustomed to the culture of fornication and paganism. Previously, Apostle Paul had sent a letter to the Corinthian congregation admonishing them not to associate with fornicators and pagans. Nevertheless, the rift within the church has now become critical. The church at Corinth was now divided into factions that sided with either Paul, Apollo, Cephas or Christ. In 1 Corinthians, Paul is writing to instruct the congregation with admonitions to correct the serious divisions within the church he had founded. The chapters 1-4 contain Paul's counsel on sectarian conflicts. In Chapter 3, Apostle Paul laments the immaturity of the believers even after receiving spiritual gifts. In Chapter 4, he expresses believers' identities God's workers as "Christ's servants" and as "those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed". "Servants" and "those entrusted" are not masters. God is our Lord and Master, and we are the faithful servants of Christ accomplishing God's missions.

[Sharing of the Word]

Observations

1. According to Paul, what should the believers consider themselves to be? (Verse 1)
2. What is required of those that are entrusted? (Verse 2)
3. What does Apostle Paul points to as the root cause of the problems in the Corinthian church? (Verses 7-8)

Translate:

1. Paul tells us that we are entrusted with the mysteries that God has revealed. What is he referring to?
2. In the context of the Corinthian church, let us reflect on how "faithfulness" specifically means in serving the church.

3. Humility comes from a humble heart and we find humility in Jesus. Let us take a deeper look at the humility that Jesus showed in Philippians Chapter 2.

Application and Sharing:

1. How can we be sure that God has called us to be a servant? As a servant of Christ, let us share what kind of fruit we expect in serving.
2. Why is humility especially important in performing God's work? Let us share some ways we can retain our humble attitude always (see Galatians 2:20).

◎ **Breaking it down**

Servants of Christ who are entrusted with the mysteries of God must be faithful and humble. What is required of those entrusted is faithfulness. But the biggest enemy of a servant is pride. Christ was obedient to all of God's commands. He was the Son of God, yet he emptied himself and was humble and obedient even unto death. Those who are called to be servants of Christ should humbly obey the Word of God, judge carefully and act accordingly. When we root our works on the Word of God and work within its boundaries, we can overcome the temptations of pride and vanity and serve faithfully according to God's holy will.

TIP: The leader should finish by leading the group with a prayer based on today's teaching. You can use one or both prayer topics below, or add more as needed.

- As servants of Christ who are entrusted with the mysteries of God, let us live humbly and centered in Your Words.
- Help us to leave all judgments to God, the Master, and let us attend to Your works humbly and diligently.

TIP: After praying with the members in one voice, finish by reading "Pray with the Word," and enter into intercessory prayers together.

[Praying in the Word] Like Paul, let us be humble. Let us be the servants of Christ, obedient to the Word. Help us to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God and cherish the anointed mission to evangelize it to.

>> End the meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Engrave in your Heart:

"This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 NIV