

## 02 나를 본받는 자가 되라 I urge you to imitate me

Passage: 1 Corinthians 4:9-21

(찬양: 주의 이름 높이며 주를 찬양(새 336, G), 나 어느 곳에 있든지(새 408))

### © Opening

Open your heart by briefly sharing your weekly life, QT and thanksgiving topics.

[Scripture Reading] Read 1Corinthians 4:9-21 together.

### \* A Guide for Understanding the Passage:

The meaning of God having put the apostles 'at the end' (v.9) is that they were humbled to a lower status and position as 'the scum of the earth' (v.13). It is to show that they were living such lowly lives. For the sake of spreading the gospel, they were insulted, scorned, beaten, spat at, unfairly treated, inhumanely persecuted, and even killed; it was a wake-up call for the believers in Corinth who were getting complacent and idle.

The Greek word for 'guardian' (v.15), *paidagogos*, carries the meanings of 'someone who takes care of children' and also 'home tutor' who was hired to take care of students and teach the necessary knowledge in life. The same word also appears in Galatians 3:24 ('guardian', NIV). 'Ten thousand guardians' means that there were many who only wanted to be respected as teachers and took up as little responsibilities as they could. This was to contrast 'father' who raises up his own children in sacrificial love.

### [Share the Word]

### Observation

1. How does the apostle Paul's companion and the Corinthian Saints contrast (verses 9-10), and what is the situation with Paul's companion? (verse 11-13)

2. What is the purpose of Paul's writing to the Corinthian Saints, and what do they encourage? (verse 14-16)

### **Interpretation**

1. Why did the apostle Paul contrast his companions with those of the Corinthian Saints?
2. What does the apostle Paul mean by, "I became your father through the gospel"?
3. Paul was able to say "imitate me" to his spiritual children because Paul's life also imitated Jesus. Why was Paul able to live the life of imitating Jesus?

### **Application and Sharing**

1. Offensive words and exhortation with love make a big difference. Paul urged the Corinthian Saints to imitate him in words of love. Is there anything I can confidently say to my child or my juniors to imitate me? If so, what part?
2. To imitate Jesus is to also accept His suffering in my life. Have you ever had the experience of suffering and hardship as a Christian? How is this possible when Christians can enjoy peace in the midst of suffering and sacrifice?

### **[Wrap-Up]**

The Corinthian church split without defending the gospel of truth. The apostles were persecuted and threatened to death, but the Corinthian Saints who were in spiritual pride only struggled to maintain vested interests. Paul, who produced them by the gospel, rebukes and exhorts them with the Father's heart to stand right in front of the gospel. And he told the saints to "imitate me". This was possible because he was confident that he endured all persecution for Christ and the Gospel and had no reproach for himself. In order to be able to say "Imitate me" to the world, we must first imitate Christ.

**[Pray Together]**

1. Help me to realize my lack of faith and my compromises with the world, and to bear the joy of suffering as a Christian.
2. Let us not criticize or condemn our brothers and sisters, who are weak in faith, but first exemplify them in faith and exhort them with the Father's heart.

➔ End the meeting with praise, offering, offering prayer or Lord's Prayer.