

1 Corinthians: True Freedom is Peace in Christ

February 6, 2011

I Cor. 4 – Freedom of the Preacher

Review: Freedom of the Congregational members (no personal allegiance to pastors; all things theirs in Christ (3.22f)

I. Whose mysteries are they? Whom do they belong? (V.1)

- A. The mysteries ... are revealed in Christ; Instituted of Christ.
- ... delivering Christ the Savior as God to man;
- ... solely in the Word, the Bible. (All things are ours). Word and Sacraments.
- B. Belong to faith ... Mysteries <by definition> above reason
- ... create / held in / preserving and strengthening faith.
- ... the present Christ working miracles.

II. The apostle is free of judgment and bound to judgment (2.15); vs. 2-7

- A. What is the standard of judgment of an apostle? Do we know the standard Jesus will apply to judge them? What standard will the apostle/pastor NOT be judged by? Innovation? Imagination? Sharing a vision? Number of believers?
- How will papists be judged, who defend the right to change Christ's institutions?
- How will the Reformed be judged, who defend removing God's grace/Word of promise in the Sacraments?
- How will Luther(ans) be judged who condemn false doctrine and refuse fellowship with it?
- Why don't Lutherans condemn all Christians in those false fellowships? (v. 5)
- B. As there any difference between an apostle (Paul) and a preacher following him? Why? (V. 6-7)

III. The freedom of the apostle to serve and suffer (vs. 8-13) after Christ.

1. He contrasts his appearance in the world with the comfortable 'super apostles'. Cross theology, not glory.
2. The illustration of the Roman Spectacle (vs. 9) participants or spectators in Rome's Super Bowl.

IV. Freedom of faith in the doctrine he taught.

1. Created children of God (believers); He's the father that put God's seed (Christ) in them to conceive them (15).
2. He bursts the bubble of hypocrisy (vs. 19) - disregard for Christ's Word (unfaith) would not be tolerated.
3. vs. 17 – Apostles are not bound to location time and space (catholic) but pastors are.

For Next Week Read 1 Corinthians 5 as extending from 4.20