

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #15, Chapter 4:14-21

Review chapter 4 to refresh your mind about its contents. Then ask the Lord to guide you as you study His Word.

1. What is Paul's purpose in writing to the Corinthians according to verse 14?
2. What "things" has he written to them about that could be a source of shame? See 1 Cor. 4:1-13.
3. Define *admonish* (NKJV and NIV *warn* [Strong's #3560]).
4. What observations can you make about *admonishment* and its purpose in our lives? See Acts 20:31-32; Rom. 15:14; Col. 1:28; 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:14-15.
5. What's the difference between writing and speaking to someone to cause shame rather than to admonish them? How did Paul's view of the Corinthians ("my beloved children") influence him to communicate like this?
6. Paul further explains in verse 15 why he sought to admonish the Corinthians as he did. What do you learn?

7. Explain the difference between a tutor and a father as Paul is using those terms in these verses.
  
8. What characteristics of a father do you discover from verses 14-21?
  
9. As a spiritual father, what does Paul encourage the Corinthians to do according to verse 16?
  
10. What does Paul's exhortation to "imitate me" prompt him to do? Why? See verse 17.
  
11. What do you learn about being an *imitator* from the following verses? See 1 Cor. 11:1-2; Eph. 4:32-5:2; 1 Thess. 1:5-6; Heb. 6:12; 13:7.
  
12. What are some ways you have imitated others? And how have those examples produced good qualities in your life?
  
13. What comes to your mind when you think about someone else imitating you?



20. Explain how 2 Cor. 10:7-11; 11:12-15 help clarify what Paul means in 1 Cor. 4:19-20.
  
21. The Corinthians' spiritual father has some training to do in his children. What situation is Paul hoping to curtail according to verse 21?
  
22. How will the Corinthians' response determine how Paul comes to them?
  
23. What parenting and/or counseling principles for dealing with wayward people can you extract from verses 14-21?
  
24. “The kingdom of God is not expressed in talk but in power. Paul challenges them (and us) as to the reality of profession. Reality is seen not in words, assertions, empty show, arrogant claims, but in lives that evidence power from on high, the power of the grace of God, the power of the Holy Spirit.”<sup>1</sup> Paul challenges each one of us to consider our responses to the Word of God. Are our words and actions devoid of power because we are not walking in the Spirit according to the will of God?

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<sup>1</sup> Jack Hunter, *What the Bible Teaches: Ritchie New Testament Commentaries* (Kilmarnock, Scotland: John Ritchie Ltd., 1986), pg. 53.

