

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (NASB)

¹ Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Servants of Christ....."hyperatai".....ship rower

Stewards of the mysteries of Godhousehold manager

Mysteries of God are the truths explicitly for the Christian faith

² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Characteristic of a steward is not cleverness, nor eloquence, nor popularity nor wisdom, nor initiative, nor success, but "**faithfulness**".

Luke 12:42 2 Timothy 2:2

³ But with (to) 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.

Paul is careful to place the personal responsibility of the steward in direct relation to Christ.

His personal evaluations of his own performance were irrelevant too.

In a steward's service, in all its details as well as in principle, they are accountable alone to Christ and not to the church.

⁴ For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.

THREE WHO ARE UNQUALIFIED TO EVALUATE

- 1. Fellow believers.
- 2. Unbelievers
- 3. Paul himself

ONE WHO IS QUALIFIED TO EVALUATE.

The Lord

⁵ Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."

The Obligation to proper judgment First, there must be a proper time, Second, there must be a proper judge, Third, there must be a proper knowledge, Fourth. There must me proper application bring to light