# October 18, 2026

## Digging deeper: 1 Corinthians 4:6-13 (Apostles' Humble Way)

**Slide 1: 10 minutes**

*"Everything belongs to you…"*

Read 1 Corinthians 3:21-23, 4:7, and Ephesians 4:16, focusing on how God has equipped the body of Christ.

- Of everything God has given you, what do you tend to take credit for yourself?
- How might realizing the point Paul is making help you to appreciate the different gifts within the body of Christ?
- What gifts has God given you to share within this body of Christ?

**Slide 2: 8 minutes**

These Corinthian believers have become very *comfortable, prideful,* and *arrogant*. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7-8, 16, Revelation 3:14-19, and 2 Peter 1:3-11.

- Why do you think Paul mentions that they are reigning before their time?
- What is the warning for us believers for being *indifferent* and *comfortable* and not putting our faith into action?

**Slide 3: 8 min**

Conversely, Paul describes what it is like *for him* to put his faith into action. He is a hardworking, obedient servant to the Lord and is persecuted on every side.

Read 1 Corinthians 4:9-13, 16, 2 Corinthians 1:5-7, and 6:14-7:1.

- Do you *think* Paul is asking them to share in his (and Christ's) suffering?
- What does it look like to be focused on true service for the Lord?

**Observations:**

**Slide 1: 10 minutes**

*"Everything belongs to you…"*

Read 1 Corinthians 3:21-23, 4:7, and Ephesians 4:16, focusing on how God has equipped the body of Christ.

- Of everything God has given you, what do you tend to take credit for yourself?
- How might realizing the point Paul is making help you to appreciate the different gifts within the body of Christ?
  (Each believer is equipped with a gift to be used for the benefit of other believers. Even those with the same gift have unique ways of using the gifts that should not be elevated above another. Those "behind the scenes" should not be viewed as inferior. God will be the judge of how each person uses their gifts.)
- What gifts has God given you to share within this body of Christ?

**Slide 2: 8 minutes**

These Corinthian believers have become very *comfortable, prideful,* and *arrogant*. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7-8, 16, Revelation 3:14-19, and 2 Peter 1:3-11.

- Why do you think Paul mentions that they are reigning before their time? (They're acting like judges currently, which is God's job to judge the use of our gifts. He's telling them *not* to judge now, but to be inter-reliant w/other believers. They will one day reign with Christ, along with Paul.)
- What is the warning for us believers for being *indifferent* and *comfortable* and not putting our faith into action?
  (Don't be lukewarm, turn from your indifference, or the world will corrupt you. Be productive! Work hard to prove you are among the called.)

**Slide 3: 8 min**

Conversely, Paul describes what it is like *for him* to put his faith into action. He is a hardworking, obedient servant to the Lord and is persecuted on every side.

Read 1 Corinthians 4:9-13, 16, 2 Corinthians 1:5-7, and 6:14-7:1.

- Do you *think* Paul is asking them to share in his (and Christ's) suffering?
  (He wants them to grow up! To be holy, mature, and effective in their work for Christ. To be different from the ways of the world. Many times, that brings suffering, but even in that, we receive the comfort of the Lord.)
- What does it look like to be focused on true service for the Lord?
  (Growing more into Christ's likeness, following Paul's example, sharing Christ with others, helping others to grow in their giftings and faith, letting the Lord control every

aspect of our lives, including our time, treasure, and talents, and appreciating the variety of gifts that exist among believers.)