

# An Audience Of One

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Let a man regard us in this manner,  
as servants of Christ and stewards  
of the mysteries of God. In this case,  
moreover, it is required of stewards  
that one be found trustworthy.  
~ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:1-2 (NASB)**

## **1) The Focus Of Leadership**

- A) In the rugged individualism of American culture (John Wayne Syndrome) we often impossibly elevate good leaders, and treat questionable leadership with arrogant disdain.**
  
- B) Warning against this tendency, Paul calls on follower of Jesus to regard leaders as “servants” and “stewards” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:1).**
  
- C) The word “servants” is often rendered as “officers” or “ministers” in Scripture (cf. John 18:12; Acts 26:16). In other words, a “servant” is one “under orders,” or “under command.”**
  
- D) The word “stewards” is often rendered as a house “manager” (Luke 16:1ff). A “steward” is a trusted servant, a “trustee” of the master’s house.**

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**E) The words should be taken together, painting a picture of one who is both “under command,” and “trusted with the wealth” of the Master’s house.**

**F) It makes perfect sense that leaders must “be found trustworthy” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:2). How? Leaders must be faithful, consistent, economical, and loyal to Jesus Christ!**

## **2) A Proper View Of Our Leaders**

**A) Paul’s leadership was so focused on Jesus Christ, he did not care about the evaluations of others, or even himself (4:3-4)!**

**B) The only sufficient judge of others in the church (especially leaders), is the Lord (4:4-5). “Quit judging!” Paul exhorts (4:5)!**

**C) Elevating leaders for good leadership is foolish! Criticizing leaders for questionable leadership is foolish! We often (if not always) miss the mark! Leave the judgments to the Lord!**

**D) Being critical is not a (or your) spiritual gift! In fact, every person is called to be a servant of Christ and a steward of Him crucified (4:1)! Can any of us be “throwing stones” at others? To do so makes us guilty of “arrogance” (4:6)!**

**E) This arrogance comes from amnesia of what God Himself has provided! We received everything from the Lord, and have nothing of our own in which to boast (4:7). Followers of Christ are to “act accordingly” as co-servants & co-stewards!**

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