



STRAIGHT TALK.

LEADER'S GUIDE

Bold Letters to the Corinthians

Week #8 Leader's Guide – May 29, 2016

Straight Talk: Bold Letters to the Corinthians
SDBC Community Groups

“Real Humility”

Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 4:8-13

8 Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! 9 For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. 11 To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, 12 and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; 13 when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

1. Household managers (stewards) had much authority in the first century. Paul addresses the Corinthian church both humbly and authoritatively by urging them to regard him and the apostles as stewards. Why do you think Paul chooses to be humble and authoritative at the same time? (Confer 1 Cor. 4:21).

2. How does Paul's statement on not judging himself and him commanding the Corinthians not to judge him relate to the fact that he is a steward of Christ? Does he mean that no human being should hold him accountable for his actions?

3. Paul views his ministry to the Corinthians within an eschatological (end times) framework. Ultimately, Paul will have to give an account for his ministry in Corinth. How does his eschatological understanding of accountability dictate his ministry?

4. According to v.7, why do we fall to the temptation of boasting? Do you have similar experiences of forgetting to be humble?

5. In vv.8-10, Paul juxtaposes the Corinthians and the apostles. There's a vivid contrast between the two groups. Whom do you resemble more—the Corinthians or the apostles?

6. We see powerful imagery at work in vv.11-13. Paul describes the life of an apostle as a life enduring suffering and pain for the glory of God. Consider Acts 5:41 and Matthew 5:11-12. Are there areas in your life where you are suffering and enduring pain for God?

7. Do you bless others when they revile you?

8. Do you endure when persecuted? Or do you demand justice and fight back?

9. What is the example that Jesus gave us as the crucified Christ?

10. What can you do as a community group to humble yourselves (lower yourselves) and serve your community as Christ served us, so that the community can actually benefit as a result of your humility?

11. What can you do within your community group to humble yourselves and serve one another so that you may bear fruit in your humility? I encourage you to be creative and try to come up with ways to humbly serve one another within your community group.