



“Puffed Up”

To Judge or Not To Judge
I Corinthians 4:1-6

Arrogance likes to judge others’:

I. Ministry – “Let a man so account of us” (vs. 1-2)

Believers are called to be:

- A. Servants** – “as of ministers of Christ”
- B. Stewards** - “stewards of the mysteries of God”
- C. Steadfastness** – “that a man be found faithful”

II. Mistakes – “yet am I hereby justified” (vs. 3-4)

Believers’ mistakes are judged by:

- A. Christians** – *It is a very small thing... judged of you”*
- B. Conscience** – “I judge not my own self”
- C. Christ** – “He that judges me is the Lord”

III. Motives– “judge nothing before the time” (vs. 5-6)

Believers’ motives are going to be:

- A. Exposed** – “the Lord...will bring to light the hidden things”
- B. Examined** – “make manifest the counsels of the hearts”
- C. Exalted** – “then shall every man have praise of God”

Sentence Sermon:

**“Judging another believer does not define who they are,
but it does help define who you are.”**

Additional Verses

- **Proverbs 16:2**
- **Matthew 25:23**
- **Romans 14:3-4; 10**
- **I Peter 4:8**
- **I Samuel 16:7**
- **James 2:2-4**
- **Colossians 2:13-14; 3:23-25**
- **Luke 6:37**
- **II Corinthians 5:9-10**
- **II Timothy 2:15**
- **II Corinthians 3:5-6**
- **I Thessalonians 5:12-13**
- **Matthew 7:1**

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words or phrases in this passage?
2. Who are the central characters of the passage?
3. What does it mean to be seen as a minister of Christ?
4. What mysteries of God are we stewards of?
5. Why is someone’s ministry for the Lord hard to judge accurately?
6. What are some misjudgments we make of our personal ministry to God?
7. What are some of the hidden things that the Lord will bring to light?
8. How important are motives? For ministry? For mistakes? For judging?
9. How often are we right about someone else’s motives? (percent)
10. What were the Corinthians “puffed up” about? Why?
11. Why are we often “puffed up” in our dealings with other believers?
12. What can we substitute for judging ministry, mistakes, and motives?