

# **Outline The Role of Teachers and the Warning to Believers 1 Corinthians 4:1–13**

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## **Introduction: Differences and Misunderstandings in Church Roles**

There is a distinction between teachers and believers, pastors and laypeople.

Groups like the Brethren and Non-Church Movement deny such distinctions, but most denominations recognize differing roles.

Are teachers truly special? Should such a line be drawn?

Let us reflect on the role of church teachers through Paul's words.

## **I. The Role of the Apostles (Verses 1–2)**

Teachers are “servants of Christ” and “stewards of the mysteries of God.”

“Servant” implies a role like that of a galley slave.

The one to whom they must be faithful is not man but the Lord.

Church leaders are not rulers of the organization but faithful ministers of the Word.

## **II. Warnings to the Believers (Verses 3–7)**

### **① Do Not Judge (Verses 3–5)**

Paul regards human evaluations as of little importance.

The true Judge is the Lord; human judgments are relative.

True judgment comes not on “man’s day” but on “the Day of the Lord.”

Being aware of the Lord’s judgment leads us to refrain from judging others.

### **② Do Not Be Arrogant (Verses 6–7)**

Pride lies behind divisions.

All is a gift from God; there is nothing to boast about.

Pride reflects a heart that forgets grace.

Philippians 2:3: “Consider others as more important than yourselves.”

### **III. Contrast Between Apostles and Believers (Verses 8–13)**

#### **① The Condition of the Believers (Verse 8)**

The Corinthians acted as if they were full and reigned like kings.

Paul’s irony: “If only you truly were kings, then we also might reign with you.”

In reality, they did not support their leaders and were indifferent in relationship.

#### **② The Condition of Paul and His Companions (Verses 9–13)**

They were treated like a spectacle, suffering as if condemned to death.

Despite hunger, thirst, persecution, and slander, they blessed others and gave encouragement.

True leadership was shown through humility and faithfulness.

### **Conclusion: Living Faithfully Before the Lord**

Teachers and believers are not opponents, but one in the temple of the Lord.

Teachers are called to faithfulness; believers are called to humility and to refrain from judgment.

No one lives apart from the Lord. Let us aim for a church that walks together as the forgiven.

Let us bless even when reviled, endure when persecuted, and become encouragers to others.