

Let Me Illustrate

4:6

4:7

4:8

4:9

4:10

4:11

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4:13

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4:16

4:17

4:18

4:19

4:20

4:21

INFORMATION

We Apostles are Illustrations of the Life that Every Christian should Live, 4:6-21

Paul explains what he has been saying up to this point (3:5-4:5), 4:6

So that “you will not go beyond what is written,” 4:6b

A reference to the cumulative force of all the Old Testament passages he's quoted, 1:19, 1:31, 2:9, 3:19-20

So that you will not continue in your pride, 4:6c

So that you will consider the answers to the questions, “Who, What, Why,” 4:7

Who makes you different?

What do you have that you did not receive?

Suppose you saw me driving around in a Cadillac XRT? We purchased the richest home in Hobart/Portage? Saw me wearing flashy jewelry and finest clothes

They had gifts, but not maturity.

Why do you boast?

Paul contrasts the Corinthian lifestyle to that of the Apostles of the cross of Christ, 4:8-13

You are living as though you think you have a right to (4:8)...

Have whatever you want

Get whatever you want

Do whatever you want (become kings), 4:8

They see themselves as “already morally and spiritually perfected.”¹

Only if it were so...

The only way to Christian maturity is the way of the cross

Embodied in the lives of the apostles

Hard road of suffering

There is no fast track to glory or maturity (James 1:2-3), only the slow arduous path of hardship and suffering.

Is faith in Christ the way of salvation?

Yes, if it is the right kind of faith in the right Jesus Christ.

Faith that understands the message of the Cross and has embraced it as the only way of salvation

Faith that believes in a suffering Christ that the Scriptures faithfully reveal.

The contrasts laid out, 4:9-13a²

The contrasts introduced, “apostles on display at the end of the procession...” (v 9) cf. “you are kings”

The Roman army would come home from battle in a huge parade with the spoils of the war on display for all to see. At the end of the parade would be the POW’s who would be humiliated, abused and then publically executed.

¹ David E. Garland, *1 Corinthians*, ECNT, p. 138.

² David E. Garland, *1 Corinthians*, ECNT, p. 140.

Or perhaps the Corinthian theatre where the final act was the fight to death of condemned criminals.

The whole universe watches this

Three contrasts between Paul (and apostles) and the Corinthians, 4:10

Fools	<u>Wise</u>
<u>Weak</u>	Strong
Dishonored	<u>Honored</u>

If the Corinthians kowtow to these standards, are they truly Christ's?

Six afflictions apostles undergo, 4:11,12a

<i>Hungry</i>	<i>Thirsty</i>
<i>In rags</i>	<i>Brutally treated</i>
<i>Homeless</i>	<i>Work with our hands</i>

These six items would have been items of dishonor, shame and scandal for the Corinthian believers.

Three distinctively Christian responses to evil, 4:12b-13a

When cursed	<u>Bless</u>
When persecuted	<u>Endure</u>
When slandered	<u>Answer kindly</u>

Overall evaluation of Christian Apostles by the world

Scum of the earth and refuse of the world

Scum = what is removed by cleaning, the filthy residue

Refuse = scrapings that are scrubbed off of something . . . scrapings from shoes

Paul's fatherly admonitions

I appeal, 4:14-16

I warn, 4:18-21