

Answer Ten: Not Comparing and Judging Ministers 1 Corinthians 04:06-13

1 *The ministers, Paul and Apollos, illustrate a point*

- a. Stop comparing and judging men:
Elevating them above
what Scripture says
- b. Stop bragging
at the expense of another

2 *First, God causes the differences between men*

3 *Second, you are showing superiority*

4 *Third, true ministers are put last*

- a. They are like men
condemned to death
and made a spectacle
to the whole universe
- b. They are expected to serve
and to be put last

5 *Fourth, true ministers serve - no matter the cost*

6 Now, brothers,
I have applied these things to myself and Apollos
for your benefit,
so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying,
“Do not go beyond what is written.”
Then you will not take pride
in one man over against another.

7 For who makes you different from anyone else?
What do you have that you did not receive?
And if you did receive it,
why do you boast as though you did not?

8 Already you have all you want!
Already you have become rich!
You have become kings
- and that without us!
How I wish that you really had become kings
so that we might be kings with you!

9 For it seems to me
that God has put us apostles on display
at the end of the procession,
like men condemned to die in the arena.
We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe,
to angels as well as to men.

10 We are fools for Christ,
but you are so wise in Christ!
We are weak, but you are strong!
You are honoured, we are dishonoured!

11 To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty,
we are in rags,
we are brutally treated,
we are homeless.

12 We work hard with our own hands.
When we are cursed, we bless;
when we are persecuted, we endure it;

13 When we are slandered, we answer kindly.
Up to this moment we have become
the scum of the earth,
the refuse of the world.