

# I Corinthians 4 (Judging, Being Judged, and the Marks of a Spiritual Minister)

by Hans R. Waldvogel

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of being a good example as a minister, taking criticism, and living by faith, and encourages listeners to regard only the command of God and the will of God.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:1, 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2 Timothy 2:6

**Topics:** "Judgment", "Spiritual Leadership"

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## Description

Hans R. Waldvogel emphasizes the role of a spiritual minister as one who must first partake of the fruits of their labor, illustrating that true ministry requires personal experience and faithfulness. He discusses the importance of not judging others, as only God can truly judge the hearts of men, and highlights the Apostle Paul's example of enduring criticism and suffering for the sake of Christ. Waldvogel encourages ministers to focus on God's command rather than the judgments of men, asserting that true honor comes from suffering for Jesus. He reminds the congregation that God often hides the true worth of His chosen ones beneath outward faults, urging them to be cautious in their judgments.

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## Transcript

Selected Verses:

II Timothy 2:6. The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

Matthew 7:1. Judge not, that ye be not judged.

I Corinthians 4:1-5. Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 3But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 4For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. 5Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Opening:

A man told me how God dealt with him about his minister. He found a lot of things that he didn't understand in this minister. But one night, he had a dream or a vision, in which he saw this minister in

charge of a large store, a store in which a lot of things were sold that were good to eat, even candy--chocolate candy. And he saw this minister in charge of this store and sampling everything. And he got kind of jealous of the minister because this minister dug into the chocolate candy and had a taste of everything that he was selling--everything that the customers...

Well, what's good for me is the good for the assembly, and what's good for the assembly is good for me, praise the Lord! "The husbandman that laboreth must first partake of the fruit." But the thing that impresses me in this verse is this: that the Apostle Paul sets himself forth as an example. A minister who's not an example is not a very good minister. He must first partake of the fruits. Any man who dares preach something that he hasn't experienced himself is going to fall flat.

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#### Selected Quotes:

Why is it that the Apostle Paul was set forth "as it were appointed to death"--being defamed, being reviled, being misunderstood, being criticized, being judged?--by the saints! Let alone what the world did: they stoned him from city to city, imprisoned him, tried to kill him again and again. And all these things the Apostle Paul suffered. I'll tell you why: he had to. He wouldn't have gotten anyplace--the church of Jesus Christ would not have gotten anyplace if God hadn't given to them a champion that was willing to lay down his life to be faithful to Jesus Christ and to do the will of God as He appointed it for him...

The Holy Ghost will use you--make you an example, glory to God! He'll let you suffer. He'll let you "die daily." But as you do--as you surrender to Jesus, don't regard the criticism and the judgments of men who don't understand. Regard only the command of God and the will of God. And you can't take time to explain everything. People wouldn't understand it anyway. But the result will be that the life of Jesus will take over. The life of Jesus Christ will take over! And people will get the light, and they'll see, "Oh, it was the Lord after all."

...

And He says, "If they called the Master of the house Beelzebub..." Oh, beloved, what an honor--what a great honor to suffer a little bit for Jesus! Unless I receive it as an honor, I'm not fit for the ministry. Oh, God alone can make ministers! God alone can. "You've not chosen Me, but I have chosen you." Jesus Christ, and You've ordained me, and You have enslaved me to Yourself as a bondsman of love. You have pierced my ear. "I come to do Thy will, O God," Jesus Christ says in my heart when He ordains me to be a branch in the Vine. Oh, for such a ministry!

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What has God called you for? You'll never find it out until you "present your body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God." And we're not going to understand any of these chapters in Corinthians unless we take the key: I Corinthians 1:9, "God is faithful, by whom ye were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord." And what does that mean? Why, I give Him my sin, I give Him my flesh, I give Him my bondage, I give Him my body, my soul, and my spirit. And He takes it, and He gives me in return His own divine nature: His humility, His purity. "He is made unto us righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Fellowship!

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Many times in people whom He has really chosen, He hides their true worth under a lot of faults. And outwardly they look crude, and sometimes they look very unkempt and unfinished. But oh, inwardly, God has His work: there's love and joy and peace and longsuffering--there's real love for Jesus Christ. And we ought to be very, very, very careful not to judge. We're so apt to judge others.

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Illustrations:

A key qualification for the ministry: taking criticism. (from 5:31)

The ministry of faith answered by divine provision. "I know that in this work, God has striven to set up an example of a Holy Ghost ministry that lives by faith. And we've seen such miracles... You try to have a work like this without an organization and have every avenue--every part of it--well supplied!" (from 7:00)

A holiness preacher who spoke with unction and spiritual pride. (from 22:17)

The story of a boy who let his teacher judge for himself. "That's the place, the only place of safety for a minister: 'He that judgeth me is the Lord.'" (from 25:03)

German at 11:43:

Hab' ich das Haupt zum Freunde

Bin ich geliebt von Gott,

Was schaden mir die Feinde,

Was acht' ich ihren Spott'?

Ich weiß und glaub' es feste,

Ich rühm' es ohne Scheu,

Daß Gott der Höchst' und Beste,

Mein Freund und Vater sei,

Weil er in allen Fällen

Mir will zur Seite stehn'

So werden Sturm und Wellen

Ich werd' niemals untergeh'n

Preis der Herrn.

If I have the Head for a friend,

If I am loved by God,

What harm can enemies do?

I care not about their mockery.  
I know and believe it firmly,  
I praise it without being shy,  
That God, the Highest and Best,  
Is my friend and Father.  
Because in every case,  
He will be at my side,  
So that in storm and waves  
I will never drown.  
Praise the Lord.

This is a modified quote from *If God Himself Be for Me*, by Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676. The entire German hymn, and its freeform English translation appear here:

Ist Gott für mich, so trete  
Gleich alles wider mich,  
Sooft ich ruf' und bete,  
Weicht alles hinter sich.  
Hab' ich das Haupt zum Freunde  
Und bin geliebt bei Gott,  
Was kann mir tun der Feinde  
Und Widersacher Rott'?  
Nun weiß und glaub' ich feste,  
Ich rühm's auch ohne Scheu,  
Daß Gott der Höchst' und Beste,  
Mein Freund und Vater sei,  
Und daß in allen Fällen  
Er mir zur Rechten steh'  
Und dämpfe Sturm und Wellen  
Und was mir bringet Weh.

Der Grund, da ich mich gründe,  
Ist Christus und sein Blut;  
Das machet, daß ich finde  
Das ew'ge wahre Gut.  
An mir und meinem Leben  
Ist nichts auf dieser Erd';  
Was Christus mir gegeben,  
Das ist der Liebe wert.  
Mein Jesus ist mein' Ehre,  
Mein Glanz und helles Licht.  
Wenn der nicht in mir wäre,  
So dürft' und könnt' ich nicht  
Vor Gottes Augen stehen  
Und vor dem strengen Sitz;  
Ich müßte stracks vergehen  
Wie Wachs in Feuershitz'.  
Mein Jesus hat gelöscht,  
Was mit sich führt den Tod;  
Der ist's, der mich rein wäschet,  
Macht schneeweiß, was ist rot.  
In ihm kann ich mich freuen,  
Hab' einen Heldenmut,  
Darf kein Gerichte scheuen,  
Wie sonst ein Sünder tut.  
Nichts, nichts kann mich verdammen.  
Nichts nimmet mir mein Herz!  
Die Höll' und ihre Flammen,

Die sind mir nur ein Scherz.  
Kein Urteil mich erschreckt,  
Kein Unheil mich betrübt,  
Weil mich mit Flügeln deckt  
Mein Heiland, der mich liebt.  
Sein Geist wohnt mir im Herzen,  
Regieret meinen Sinn,  
Vertreibt mir Sorg' und Schmerzen,  
Nimmt allen Kummer hin,  
Gibt Segen und Gedeihen  
Dem, was er in mir schafft,  
Hilft mir das Abba schreien,  
Aus aller meiner Kraft.  
Und wenn an meinem Orte  
Sich Furcht und Schwachheit find't,  
So seufzt und spricht er Worte,  
Die unausprechlich sind  
Mir zwar und meinem Munde,  
Gott aber wohl bewußt,  
Der an des Herzens Grunde  
Ersiehet seine Lust.  
Sein Geist spricht meinem Geiste  
Manch süßes Trostwort zu,  
Wie Gott dem Hilfe leiste,  
Der bei ihm suchet Ruh',  
Und wie er hab' erbauet  
Ein' edle, neue Stadt,

Da Aug' und Herze schauet,  
Was er geglaubet hat.  
Da ist mein Teil, mein Erbe  
Mir prächtig zugericht't;  
Wenn ich gleich fall' und sterbe,  
Fällt doch mein Himmel nicht.  
Muß ich auch gleich hier feuchten  
Mit Tränen meine Zeit,  
Mein Jesus und sein Leuchten  
Durchsüßet alles Leid.  
Wer sich mit dem verbindet,  
Den Satan fleucht und haßt,  
Der wird verfolgt und findet  
Ein' harte, schwere Last  
Zu leiden und zu tragen,  
Gerät in Hohn und Spott,  
Das Kreuz und alle Plagen,  
Die sind sein täglich Brot.  
Das ist mir nicht verborgen,  
Doch bin ich unverzagt.  
Dich will ich lassen sorgen,  
Dem ich mich zugesagt,  
Es koste Leib und Leben  
Und alles, was ich hab';  
An dir will ich fest kleben  
Und nimmer lassen ab.  
Die Welt, die mag zerbrechen,

Du stehst mir ewiglich,  
Kein Brennen, Hauen, Stechen  
Soll trennen mich und dich,  
Kein Hungern und kein Dürsten,  
Kein' Armut, keine Pein,  
Kein Zorn der großen Fürsten  
Soll mir ein' Hind'rung sein.  
Kein Engel, keine Freuden,  
Kein Thron, kein' Herrlichkeit,  
Kein Lieben und kein Leiden,  
Kein' Angst und Herzeleid,  
Was man nur kann erdenken,  
Es sei klein oder groß,  
Der keines soll mich lenken  
Aus deinem Arm und Schoß.  
Mein Herze geht in Sprüngen  
Und kann nicht traurig sein,  
Ist voller Freud'und Singen,  
Sieht lauter Sonnenschein.  
Die Sonne, die mir lachet,  
Ist mein Herr Jesus Christ;  
Das, was mich singen machet,  
Ist, was im Himmel ist.  
If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy,  
For when I pray, before me my foes confounded fly.  
If Christ, the Head, befriend me, if God be my support,  
The mischief they intend me shall quickly come to naught.

I build on this foundation, that Jesus and His blood  
Alone are my salvation, the true eternal good;  
Without Him, all that pleases is valueless on earth:  
The gifts I owe to Jesus alone my love are worth.  
His Holy Spirit dwelleth within my willing heart,  
Tames it when it rebelleth, and soothes the keenest smart.  
He crowns His work with blessing, and helpeth me to cry  
"My Father!" without ceasing to Him Who reigns on high.  
To mine His Spirit speaketh sweet words of soothing power,  
How God to Him that seeketh for rest, hath rest in store;  
How God Himself prepareth my heritage and lot,  
And though my body weareth, my Heav'n shall fail me not.

German at 20:08:

Guter Gemeinschaft -- Good companionship

References:

Within the Holiest

by Gerhard Tersteegen (translated by Frances Bevan)

(Revelation 1:5,6)

His priest am I, before Him day and night,  
Within His Holy Place;  
And death, and life, and all things dark and bright,  
I spread before His Face.  
Rejoicing with His joy, yet ever still,  
For silence is my song  
My work to bend beneath His blessed will,  
All day, and all night long--  
For ever holding with Him converse sweet,

Yet speechless, for my gladness is complete.

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