

Servants of Christ

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 4.

B. Stewardship speaks of our duty and privilege to discharge the truth that we have been given.

C. We are accountable—the servant is an under-rower of Christ.

II. Sources of pressure upon a preacher to get him to forsake his responsibility as a servant of Christ.

A. Congregational pressure.

1. Adulation that swells the head. We cannot be pleasers of men and be servants of Christ. (Galatians 1:10)

2. Manipulation that ties the hand.

3. Antagonism that breaks the heart.

B. Societal pressure—the desire to be accepted by the community.

1. There is a wrong love for prestige, prominence and power.

2. God is the source of true prestige.

C. Personal pressure.

1. Paul says that he does not even evaluate himself.

2. Paul means that he is not aware of anything that he has not been willing to face.

III. Evaluation must rest in the Lord's hands.

A. This takes place in the present and the future.

B. As Paul grew, he gradually became aware more and more of his sinfulness. The Lord gradually reveals the work of the flesh in our lives.

Application questions:

1. Which pressure to forsake one's service do you find to be the strongest? Explain.

2. How can we become of the Lord's present evaluation in our lives?

3. Is it always bad to have congregational, societal or personal pressure? Explain.
