

A Father in Action

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 4.

B. The problem is a complacent church.

1. This is the ancient problem of spiritual lukewarmedness.

2. This is a great hindrance to the gospel.

C. We have a danger of becoming complacent.

1. Affluence can make someone spiritually poor.

2. Prominence can bring about complacency.

3. The Corinthians were complacent at having all the gifts of the Spirit.

II. Marks of a complacent Christian.

A. A sense that one has already arrived.

B. A lack of need for anyone else.

III. The Corinthians were victims of the world's illusions, but Paul brings them back to the truth of a world that is ruthless.

IV. The apostles.

A. God has put them on exhibit to demonstrate certain things.

B. They are men put to death. They are persecuted Christians. They are made fools.

C. They are peculiar Christians blessing when reviled, enduring when persecuted, and conciliating when slandered. The definition of a Christian lifestyle is how we respond to trial.

V. Principles in dealing with relationships and the issue of complacency.

A. Conveying a sense of confidence and love.

B. Present a model.

C. Preserve liberty.

D. Confront realistically.

Application questions:

1. How does one identify complacency in the church?

2. How do the apostles model the antithesis of complacency?

3. What can you do to confront lovingly this problem in the church?
