

1 Corinthians 4
It's All A Gift

The dangers of labels

Taking pride in one person over against another

In Corinth people in the church were labelling themselves in relation to important names; Paul, Apollos, Cephas, etc.

Today we have 2000 years of church history. More history, more names, more opportunity for division.

Going beyond what is written

We can learn a lot from reading those leaders and writers that God has given as gifts to his church. The danger is that we read scripture *through* those writings, instead of reading the writings in the light of scripture.

Boasting about something other than but Jesus

There is a dangerous kind of pride that takes pride in yourself, in your background, in your tradition. That kind of boasting sets up a hierarchy of Christians. My kind of Christian is "better" than your kind of Christian.

The antidote

Seeing ourselves as others see us

"For who sees anything different in you?"

There aren't that many distinctions between us as Christians. Anyone looking from the outside tends to see the similarities not the differences.

Seeing that all we have is a gift from God

What do you have that you did not receive?

Seeing that no-one has arrived

Some of the Corinthians were talking as if they were already living in the New Jerusalem, as if they had already arrived, as if, as Christians, we no longer have any problems or struggles.

Take away

In two weeks we have the opportunity to celebrate our common faith and calling across denominational boundaries with other TrueCity churches.