

I Corinthians 21 Follow Me notes

I Cor. 4:8-13; 14-17

Paul has them squirming with his biting sarcasm in previous verses, but now that he has their attention, he changes his tone.

--VV. 14-17 – Can you say that? We should be able to say that.

--I cringe when I see a bumper sticker that in some way says that the driver is a Christian—nothing wrong with telling people who you belong to, but make sure that the way you are driving represents Him correctly.

There was a man parked at a red light and the car behind him kept honking. The light was red, there was nothing he could do. He decided, "If that woman honks one more time, I'm going to go back there and give her a piece of my mind. She honked again so he stormed back there and yelled, "what is your problem lady?" She said, "I don't have a problem, I was just following your bumper sticker that says honk if you love Jesus."

--Paul could say, "Don't just do as I say, do as I do." – There is a somewhat popular mantra from church leaders in recent years that effectively says, "Don't follow me, follow Jesus."

--That notion is foreign to what the Scriptures say leadership is supposed to do: I Peter 5:3; Hebrews 13:7

--V. 17 – Paul's talk and walk were congruent

Peanuts cartoon with Lucy saying to Charlie Brown, "**I hate everything. I hate everybody. I hate the whole wide world!**"

Charlie says, "But I thought you had inner peace."

Lucy replies, "I do have inner peace. But I still have outer obnoxiousness"

--We are so glad that you have peace with Jesus and that He lives in your heart, but would you please let Him live through your life?

1. The Bible everywhere teaches that our walk is vastly more important than our talk.

--James 3:13; I John 3:17-18; Mark 7:6

--The essence of hypocrisy is to live a life that disagrees with what you profess.

--When people look at our lives as followers of Christ, will they find that we're filled with Christ or with some unidentifiable substance that doesn't reflect Christlikeness?

If I tell you I'm going to do something and then do something else, what have I told you?

--"Yes, I'm saying all this but it doesn't really matter to me because I don't bother to do it myself."

2. You may think, I don't have the same responsibilities as a person like Paul.

--Are you sure about that?

--This would have been a great Father's Day sermon because the imagery is a father to his children.

--Our children are watching they will do what we do long before they do what we say.

These weren't Paul's physical children; they were his spiritual children.

--God has given us great influence over many people here—many

Children (we had a great camp—70 children’s undivided attention)
--Our walk, talk, attitude, the way we treat each other in the church and outside of it is a model for people to follow.
--So, if they followed you, where would they wind up?

Did you know that you are a walking advertisement?
--If you carry the title “Christian” you carry the name of Christ.
--“Christ” is the heading of your advertisement, and underneath is a blank space that you fill in every day with your actions, words and attitudes.
--Every day the world reads “Christ”, but what description have you given Him underneath?

3. Paul says, “imitate me”, “follow me” we need to be able to say the same thing.

--The paradigm of the entire New Testament is “follow me” – Jesus “follow me and I will make you fishers of men” – Paul says, “follow me even as follow Christ.” **1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9**
--It’s still that way today, “Follow me as I follow Christ.”

--If they followed you, where would they wind up?
--“Do as I say and not as I do” is another way of saying, “I don’t believe this stuff either.”
--We need to take a careful look at what our actions are saying about what we believe.

A missionary was traveling throughout India preaching and teaching, he had a driver that navigated the roads for him as he traveled. At one stop he was teaching a group of Hindu women, and about a third of the way into the lesson one of the ladies in the front got up and went outside and then returned immediately and took her place again, listening intently. Afterward, she apologized for disturbing the group in the middle of his lesson. The missionary asked if everything was OK, and she told him that she had been so impressed with what he had to say about Jesus that she went out to ask his driver if he really lived the way that he talked. He said that you did, so I hurried right back so I wouldn’t miss anything.”

--We’ve got a world that is playing follow the leader—looking to us for the truth and it first has to be seen in our actions.