

**Motive Guessing in Conflict**

**I Corinthians 4:1-9**

**I.** Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** Paul is defending his \_\_\_\_\_, as an Apostle, to speak into the situation that is happening in the Corinthian church. V. 1-4
- B.** He illustrates his position using the \_\_\_\_\_ of a servant entrusted with the caretaking of the master's household. V. 1
- C.** His motives in addressing some of the issues here are \_\_\_\_\_, but he leaves motive \_\_\_\_\_ to God alone. V. 3-5
- D.** Paul uses an important phrase as a guide for not trying to judge another person's motive. The phrase is "do not go \_\_\_\_\_ what is written". V. 6
- E.** Motive \_\_\_\_\_ is at the center of most church disputes. V. 7-8 The Corinthian church had been extremely blessed and now they are starting to turn on one another.
- F.** Being a leader in the church can be a difficult calling, but we must \_\_\_\_\_ God to defend us because He called us to do this. V. 9

**II.** How can we apply these truths to our life?

- A.** The authority of the Apostle Paul has been passed down to us through the New Testament. When our spiritual leaders are in \_\_\_\_\_ with God's word, we must listen to them. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a spiritual leader is to be considered "faithful" to what they have been entrusted with.
- B.** We must \_\_\_\_\_ of trying to guess another person's motives. This leads to divisions, mistrust, and even abusive acts of payback.
- C.** \_\_\_\_\_ is always the safe default. I am a beggar who has been given the best food around. In \_\_\_\_\_, I must continue to give the "Giver" of this bread all the glory.
- D.** We need to \_\_\_\_\_ to the authorities that God has put over us. Scripture gives us parameters for this authority.