



**Servant oarsmen
rowing together.**

Paul

Apollos

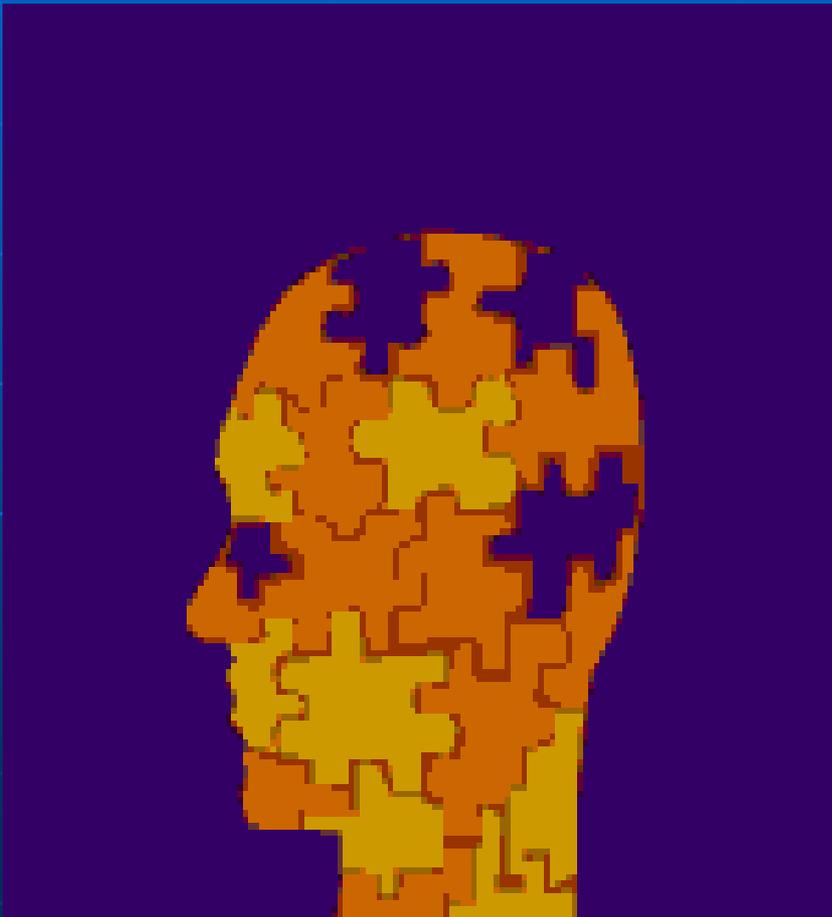
Cephas

and followers

**Helmed by
Captain Jesus**

The Mysteries of God

The essence of 1 Corinthians 1-3



**The motives of
God are
incomprehensible
to man,**

**Man's true
motives are
understood by
God alone.**

Now then:

1 Corinthians 4

Accountable
for God's
purposes –

His mission

His ministers

His mystery

- Let a man so account of us,
- as of the ministers of Christ,
- stewards of the mysteries of God.
- Moreover it is required in stewards,
- that a man be found faithful.

Accountability - 3 Dimensions:

- Accountable to peers
- Accountable to self
- Accountable to the Lord
- But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment:
- yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified:
- but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

Accountability - Criteria

- Long Term
- Time Specific
- Inner Motives
- Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts:
- Praise / Reward
- and then shall every man have praise of God.

Accountability - Characteristics

- Not competitive
- No zero sum game
- Character developing
- Engenders humility
- Recognises individuality
- Reinforces interdependence

And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

Accountability – Mindset

- Operate from a sense of prosperity and fulfilment.
- Example to society
- Public Relations
- Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.
- For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

Accountability - Exposure

- Sacrificial
- Vulnerable
- Honourable
- In need
- Exposed to risk
- Acknowledges the deprivation of our situation – our drawbacks
- We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ;
- we are weak, but ye are strong;
- ye are honorable, but we are despised
- Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place;

Accountability – being proactive

- Own actions
- Proactive not reactive
- Return good for evil
- Create awareness of difficulties
- And labour, working with our own hands:
 - being reviled, we bless;
 - being persecuted, we suffer
 - being defamed, we entreat:
 - we are made as the filth of the world, and are the off scouring of all things unto this day.
 - I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

Accountability - Counsel

- Opinions are cheap
- There are few 'wise fathers' who counsel with your interest at heart
- Encourage follower ship.
- We need to be reminded of best practice and the proprietors inspiration.
- For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
- Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.
- For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

Accountability - Certain

- Too proud for accountability?
- Accountability will happen!
- Not theory or tick box, but the power of God's results!
- Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.
- But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.
- For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in powerful action.

Accountability – the choice

What will ye?
shall I come unto you
with a rod,

or

in love,
and
in the spirit of meekness?