

# Considered... Custodians for Christ

## 1 Cor. 4:1-2

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

## 1 Cor. 4:1-2

Don't imagine us leaders to be something we aren't. We are servants of Christ, not his masters. We are guides into God's most inspiring secrets, not security guards posted to protect them. The requirements for a good guide are reliability and accurate knowledge.

Paul asks that he, and the other apostles (us) be regarded as servants and stewards.

There are several different words in the New Testament to describe a servant. Here, Paul uses the word *hyperetas*, which describes a subordinate servant functioning as a free man. He does not use the more common New Testament word for a servant (*doulos*), a common slave.

*Hyperetas* literally means an "under-rower," in the sense that someone is a rower on a big galley ship. It is not the most lowly word for a servant, BUT it certainly is not a prestigious position. Under-rowers serve "Christ the master-pilot, helping forward the ship of the Church."

**Steward = one who was the manager of a household.**

In relation to the master of the house, the steward was a slave, but in relation to the other slaves, the steward was a master. "The steward . . . was the master's deputy manager in regulating the concerns of the family, providing food for the household, seeing it served out at proper times & seasons, & in proper quantities. He received all the cash, expended what was necessary for the support of the family, and kept exact accounts, for which he was obliged at certain times to lay before the master."

**Stewards of the mysteries of God:** What did Paul and the other apostles "manage" in the household of God? Among other things, they were stewards of the mysteries of God. They "managed" (in the sense of preserving and protecting) and "dispensed" (in the sense of distributing) the truth of God.

**Custodians (for Christ):** Help keep things clean; bring order to chaos; they are the "go to guys"... they have keys to about everything and an understanding of where things are and should be. They are open and available. They serve . . . yet they manage. They don't wear the nicest clothes – or drive the fanciest cars... BUT without them???

**Challenge:** Have a Custodian for Christ attitude!