

**MARCH 13, 2022**  
**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
**THE VOLUME OF VOICES**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-21**  
**WINTER QUARTER WEEK 9 OF 13**

**Getting to Know Each Other Better**

**1. What are some sounds you absolutely do not like hearing? Why?**

Here are a few of mine -

- The sound people make when they chew with their mouth open.
- The sound people make when they talk with their mouth full.
- The sound people make when they try to talk while they are brushing their teeth.
- Parents yelling at their children in public.

How about you?

**Renewed by Grace/Equipped as Disciples**

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-4:14**

**After reading the text, review the four points Ryan drew out of it.**

Here they are with some of Ryan's thoughts from his teaching notes -

- Give weight to people: willing to speak hard truth with loving motives.
  - Paul's motive isn't to make them feel bad, but to warn them about the consequences of making wrong decisions - admonishment. He's practicing what he taught in Ephesians 4:15.
  - Notice how speaking the truth in love is designed to cause us to GROW. Telling someone a lie they want to hear is not loving.
  - What are some things we should be looking for to identify trusted voices who speak hard truth with loving motives?
    - First, listen to those who seek to bring change, not shame.
    - Second, listen to those who love you more than they love what you think about them.
- Give weight to the voices of those who have proven their care through investment and commitment.
  - They invest, just like Paul did. That's part of what Paul is saying: you can trust me because I have proven my love for you and care for you in the way that I sacrificed and gave.
  - Secondly, and of equal importance, a good father is with you for the long haul. If someone's presence in your life is dependent on you taking their advice, they are a guide, not a father. People who stand with you deserve to be listened to. Permanence of presence should give weight to their advice.
- Give weight to the words of those who are living the kind of life you want to live.
  - I think this is one of the safeguards for those in positions of influence. Can you say to the people around you, "do what I do, in the way I do it"?
  - Good examples of faith are so important because more is caught than taught.

- “When the basic way of learning ethical instruction is by example, the obedience factor on the part of the ‘instructor’ is bound to increase! May God give his people grace and courage to do so.” Gordon Fee.
- Give weight to the words of those who live with humble power, not arrogant talk.
  - You don’t want to give weight to the words of those who are humble, but powerless. You don’t want to give weight to those who are powerful but prideful.
  - We are looking for that combination of people who exhibit God’s power but know that it’s from him and remain humble.
  - When you look for someone with humble power, you’re looking for someone who isn’t always talking about themselves but does great things. Someone who has influence but knows it’s by grace. Someone who accomplishes a lot but gives the credit to others. Humble power, listen to those kinds of people!
- 2. Discuss with each other which ones are most helpful as you consider to whom you will listen. Why?**
- 3. Discuss with each other which ones are the most challenging to implement as you continue to become someone to whom others would want to listen. Why?**

**Sent in Love**

- 4. What is one way you will apply the text this week, both on the “to whom will you listen” side, and on the “being a person to whom others would want to listen” side.**  
It might be helpful to remember Ryan’s closing challenge for the “to whom will you listen” side -
  - This week I want to turn up: \_\_\_\_\_
  - This week I want to turn down: \_\_\_\_\_