

# Message Notes

## "Roots of Division"

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** – How did we get here?

### *What's at the root of all these divisions? (1 Corinthians 4:6-21)*

1. A wrong view of comparison and ranking people (1 Corinthians 4:6-7)

*Three life changing questions (or. 7)*

- a. "For who makes you different from anyone else?"  
[Level ground before the cross of Christ]  
– Luke 18:9-14
- b. "What do you have that you did not receive?"  
[Everything you have is a gift] – James 1:16-17
- c. "And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"  
[Opposite of boasting is thankfulness]  
– Romans 1:21-23
2. An "over-realized eschatology"  
(1 Corinthians 4:8-13)
- a. An unreal expectation of what this life is like  
– 1 Timothy 6:3-10
- b. A poor theology of suffering – 1 Peter 4
3. No father figure in their lives  
(1 Corinthians 4:14-17)
- a. Running through the stop sign
- b. No one to imprint on (imitative Living)
4. Arrogance (1 Corinthians 4:18-21)
- a. Overconfidence in my certainty
- b. A misunderstanding of what real power is  
– Romans 1:16

**Application** – *Are there roots of division brewing in you?*

### **1 Corinthians 4:6-21**

<sup>6</sup>Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. <sup>7</sup>For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? <sup>8</sup>Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings—and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you! <sup>9</sup>For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. <sup>10</sup>We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! <sup>11</sup>To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. <sup>12</sup>We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; <sup>13</sup>when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world. <sup>14</sup>I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. <sup>15</sup>Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup>Therefore I urge you to imitate me. <sup>17</sup>For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. <sup>18</sup>Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. <sup>19</sup>But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. <sup>20</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. <sup>21</sup>What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

### **Luke 18:9-14 (please grab a pew Bible)**

#### **James 1:16-17**

<sup>16</sup>Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. <sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

#### **Romans 1:21-23**

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

### **1 Timothy 6:3-10 (please grab a pew Bible)**

#### **1 Peter 4:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

#### **Romans 1:16**

<sup>16</sup>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...

How did  
we get  
here?





*What's at the root of  
all these divisions?*

*1. A wrong view of people comparison / ranking*

# *1. A wrong view of people comparison / ranking*

## **1 Corinthians 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. <sup>7</sup>For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

# *Three Huge Questions*

## **1 Corinthians 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. <sup>7</sup>For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

# *Three Huge Questions*

## **Question #1**

For who makes you different from anyone else?

# *Three Huge Questions*

## **Question #1**

For who makes you different from anyone else?

### **Luke 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ <sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ <sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

# *Three Huge Questions*

## **Question #2**

What do you have that you did not receive?

# *Three Huge Questions*

## **Question #2**

What do you have that you did not receive?

### **James 1:16-17**

<sup>16</sup>Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. <sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

# *Three Huge Questions*

## **Question #3**

And if you did receive it,  
why do you boast as though you did not?

# *Three Huge Questions*

## **Question #3**

And if you did receive it,  
why do you boast as though you did not?

### **Romans 1:21-23**

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

## 2. *An “over-realized eschatology”*

## 2. *An “over-realized eschatology”*

### 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

<sup>8</sup>Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings – and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you!

<sup>9</sup>For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena.

We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. <sup>10</sup>We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! <sup>11</sup>To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. <sup>12</sup>We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; <sup>13</sup>when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.



**a. An unreal expectation (demand) on God that he owes us a certain type of life NOW!**

# a. An unreal expectation (demand) on God that he owes us a certain type of life NOW!

## 1 Timothy 6:3-10

<sup>3</sup>If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, <sup>4</sup>he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions <sup>5</sup>and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. <sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup>People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

## **b. A poor theology of suffering**

## **b. A poor theology of suffering**

### **1 Peter 4:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

### 3. *No father figure in their lives*

### *3. No father figure in their lives*

#### **1 Corinthians 4:14-17**

<sup>14</sup>I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. <sup>15</sup>Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup>Therefore I urge you to imitate me. <sup>17</sup>For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

### *3. No father figure in their lives*

#### **1 Corinthians 4:14-17**

<sup>14</sup>I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. <sup>15</sup>Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup>Therefore I urge you to imitate me. <sup>17</sup>For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

### *3. No father figure in their lives*

#### **1 Corinthians 4:14-17**

<sup>14</sup>I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. <sup>15</sup>Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup>Therefore I urge you to imitate me. <sup>17</sup>For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

*a. Running through the stop sign*

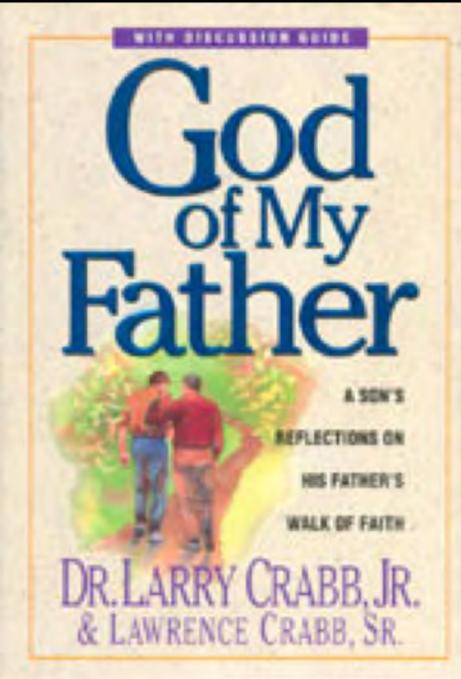


*a. Running through the stop sign*



## *b. Imitative Living*

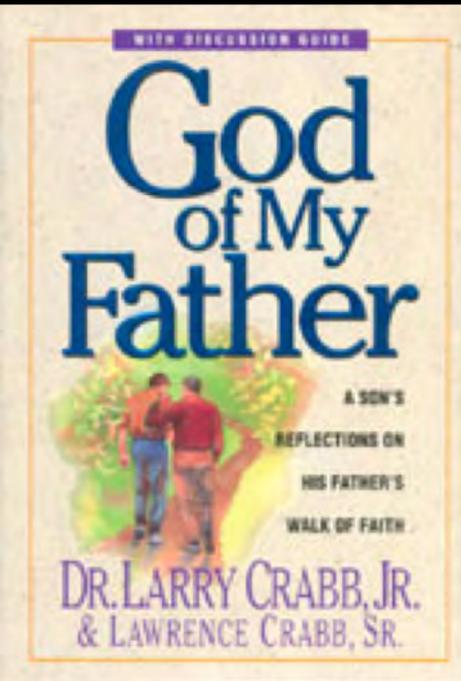
## *b. Imitative Living*



“A father is someone who walks a path in a way that attracts others to want to walk the same path.”

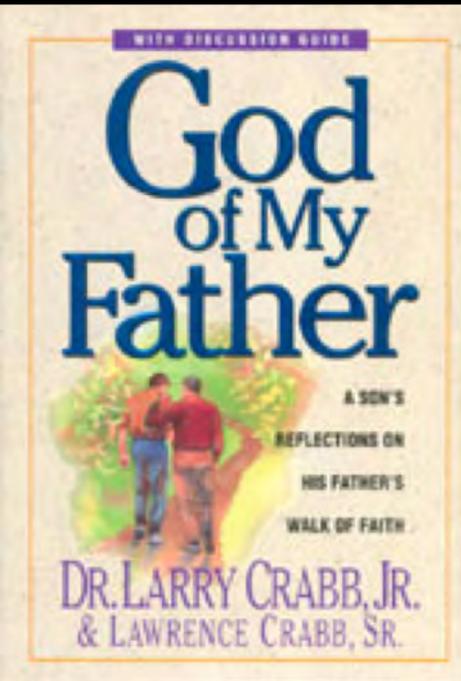


## *b. Imitative Living*



“A father is someone who occasionally turns around and looks on his children following behind with a compassion that leaves no doubt he understands and cares for them. He understands because he has taken the time to listen to them and because he hasn’t forgotten his own history; he cares because he feels deeply how much he longs for what is not yet his.”

## *b. Imitative Living*



“A father is someone who turns again to face ahead, away from his children, and continues his journey, never giving help that would allow his children to succeed easily – and thereby weaken their character. By living for something more important than his children, a father gives them the most precious gift any father can give – the gift of transcendence. His ongoing involvement with them keeps them from feeling abandoned and worthless. His passion for God keeps them from thinking they are the center of life. Instead, they are drawn to join him in pressing on toward the highest goal.”

## 4. *Arrogance*

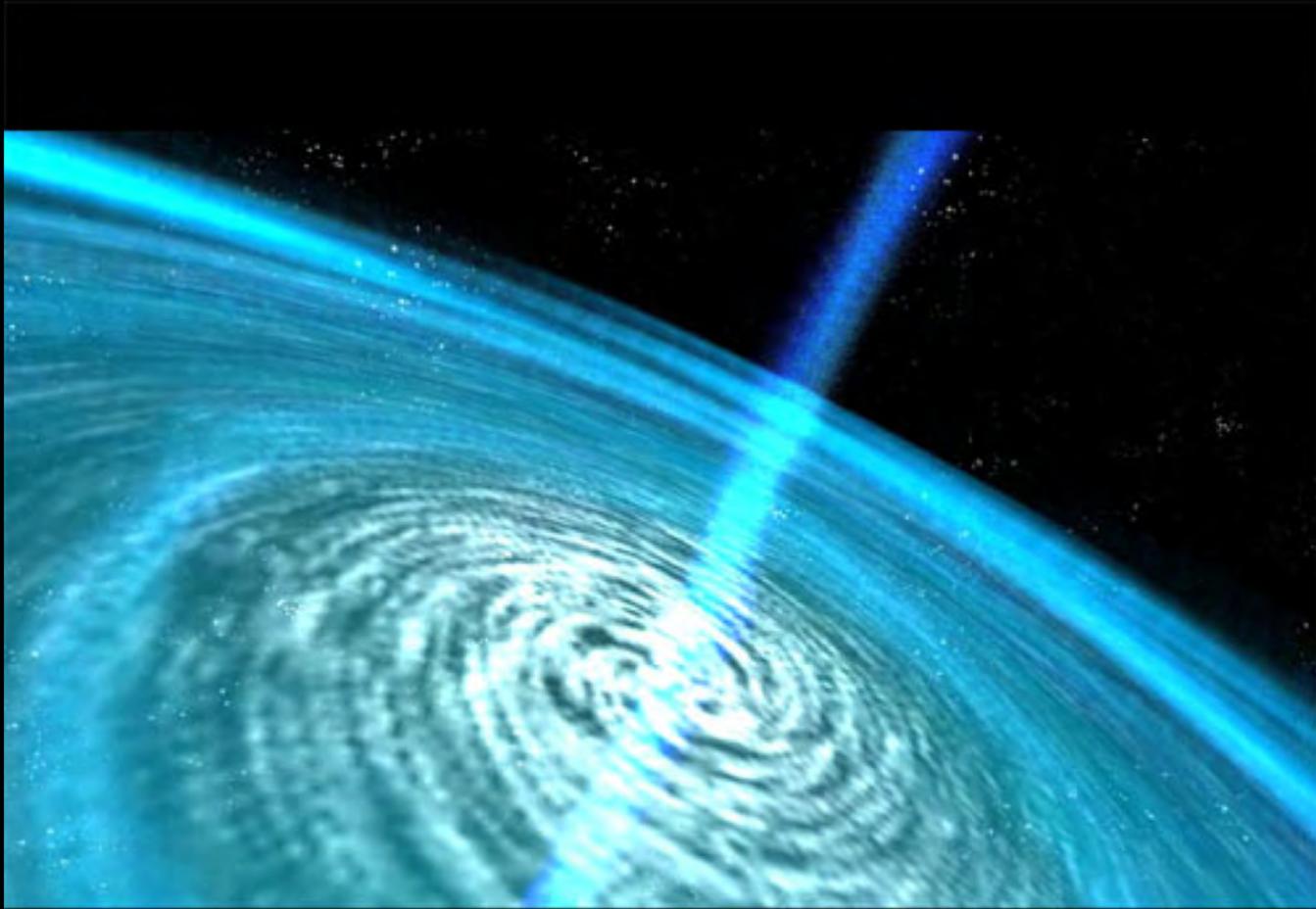
## 4. *Arrogance*

### **1 Corinthians 4:18-21**

<sup>18</sup>Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. <sup>19</sup>But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. <sup>20</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. <sup>21</sup>What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

*a. Overconfidence in my certainty or my ability*

*a. Overconfidence in my certainty or my ability*



*b. A misunderstanding of what real power is*

*b. A misunderstanding of what real power is*



*b. A misunderstanding of what real power is*



*b. A misunderstanding of what real power is*

**Romans 1:16**

<sup>16</sup>I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
because it is the power of God  
for the salvation of everyone who believes...

# Application Questions

How do you view others?

Is all you have remembered as a gift from God that you are thankful for?

Do you have an demanding spirit toward God that he make your life perfect now?

Have you resisted mentors and father figures in your life?

Are you arrogant?