**SCC SMALL GROUPS**

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**When its Not Easy**

**I Corinthians 4:1-21**

**Getting Started:**

1. If you could choose a set of parents other than the one’s who gave you birth or raised you, who would you choose and why?

\* What do you think you would be like today if you had exercised that choice?

2. When you were growing up who was the person who was very hard to love?

\* Why?

**Searching the Scriptures:**

1. How does Paul say Christians should regard their leaders?

\* In what way does it shed light on the cause of divisions in the Corinthian church?

2. How does viewing Paul and Apollos biblically help the Corinthians to see their

leaders weakness and limitations?

3. Describe the contrasts Paul draws between the Corinthian Christians and the

Apostles in verses 8-13?

\* What basic truth is Paul making with these contrasts?

\* How would understanding this truth narrow the divisions?

4. As you read verses 8-11 aloud, what tone of voice do you hear Paul using?

\* To make what point?

\* What does Paul urge his Corinthian "family" to do?

\* How are they to "imitate Paul" without becoming "followers of Paul" (cf. 1:12, 2:4)?

\* How will Timothy help them to do this? Why?

5. How does Paul detail what it means to **"*blessing those who curse us"* (v. 12)** in

verses 12-14)?

\* Now read the following passages. What are saying about ***"blessing those***

***who curse us."***

> I Thessalonians 5:14

> Romans 12:18

> Mathew 5:44

> John 15:20

6. How do you think the Corinthians felt when they read verses 18-21?

\* What do you learn about Paul in these verses?

**Applications of the Scriptures:**

1. Why is "criticism" wrong? Or is it?

2. What role, if any, does pride play when we criticize someone?

3. What 2-3 characteristics, attitudes and actions of Paul would you like to most

imitate?

4. What is your greatest concern when it comes to how the "Church and Christians"

are being treated today?