

THERE IS MORE TO MINISTRY THAN MEETS THE EYE:
HAVE YOU BEEN WHERE I'VE BEEN?

- Introduction: Paul is worried about the Corinthians because they have been tempted to disregard his spiritual authority (insight, expertise ability); they have been unhappy with him correcting them; and they have been impressed/intimidated by some pseudo-apostles who *appear* very spiritual.
- v.1-4 (1) The one and only issue is devotion to Jesus. Authentic spiritual authority will focus people's attention on Jesus -- not on themselves or on side issues.
- v.5-11 (2) Skillfulness of speech, smoothness of operation and impressiveness of show have little to do with true spirituality. The important question is whether leaders know what they are talking about and what they are doing *spiritually*.
- v.12-15 (3) There will always be those who aspire to positions of authority. Some such people are evilly motivated; others are simply uninformed about what true authority is made of and how it is acquired.
- v.16-22 (4) Believers are sometimes tempted to confuse an *authoritative* leader who takes advantage of them, with a leader who serves them with true authority.
- v.23-33 (5) Boasting about great exploits and great triumphs says nothing about someone's spiritual authority. The hard times in someone's life tell us more. The only meaningful boasting is about our weaknesses, our traumas and our sufferings.