

## **ARE YOU AN UNDER ROWER? (1 Corinthians 4:1)**

### **I. We are to follow the Captain's beat.**

- A. Jesus is our Captain (Hebrews 2:10).
- B. He calls the shots in our life.
  - 1. You and I are no longer in charge because we have become His servants.
  - 2. Romans 6:17-18.
- C. Where He tells us to go, that is where we must go.
  - 1. We are to go to the world.
  - 2. We are to go to our neighbor.
  - 3. We are to go to worship.
  - 4. We are to go to war against evil.
- D. Soldiers in the military don't question orders.
  - 1. When they do, there is discipline.
  - 2. The under rower in a ship didn't question the orders or the beat the captain gave.
  - 3. You and I are not to question the commands of our captain.
- E. While we will never be whipped or beaten in some way for failing to follow the beat of our Captain, there is punishment for it.
  - 1. 2 Thessalonians 3:6.
  - 2. To walk disorderly is a military phrase carrying the idea of being out of step.
  - 3. Those who are walking out of step, to their own beat, face discipline from brethren and the Lord.

### **II. We are to row together.**

- A. In the belly of the ship, each rower was to row in unison.
  - 1. Rowing at different times would have caused quite a problem.
  - 2. The oars would have banged together and the ship could have gotten off course easily.
- B. Christians are to be together in their work for the Lord.
  - 1. There were no chief rowers in those boats and there aren't any in the church.
  - 2. You and I are to be working together for our Captain.
- C. This was one of the great strengths of the early church (Acts 2:44).
- D. This was one of the problems of the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:10).
  - 1. These brethren were not united.
  - 2. Because of their disunity, there were great problems that arose in that congregation.
  - 3. Paul addressed that problem first because without unity, none of the other problems could be fixed.
- E. Paul, by inspiration, compared the church to a body (Ephesians 4:16).
  - 1. We know a body, in order to function properly, has to have all the parts of it working together.
  - 2. The same is true for the church.
  - 3. We can't have members living to the beat of their own drum.
- F. Each of us needs to row together.

### **III. We are not to expect honor, just serve.**

A. An under rower in the belly of a ship had no illusions that he would row his way to greatness.

1. He knew his lot in life was service to the ship for which he rowed.

2. He never looked for a crown or a promotion, he just rowed.

3. In truth, a lot of the success of their ship depended on them rowing properly.

4. However, they were not going to be commended for that; they were just to row.

B. You and I can't go around looking for someone to pat us on the back all time and tell us what a great job we are doing.

C. We need to be willing to be that person behind the scenes who simply does what he or she can do.

1. Those are the type people you can win with.

2. Those are the type people Jesus told us to be (Luke 17:10).

D. God is to be the one glorified (Matthew 5:16).

E. I saw the other day where the writer of Muscle and a Shovel posted on Facebook that "Randal" told him he could reveal his true identity.

1. If you read the book, you know that the author changed the name of the one who taught him the gospel because that man didn't want any of the credit.

2. Now that the book has been long in circulation, he felt it would be ok to have his name told.

3. I read through the comments and some lady posted that she wanted to get "Randal's" autograph.

4. I cringed when I read that because that is the exact thing he wanted to avoid in the first place.

5. All "Randal" did was what the Captain ordered him to do.

F. We are here to serve God and bring Him glory and honor (Ephesians 3:20-21).

### **IV. We are to be committed for life.**

A. Many an under rower died chained to the deck with his hands on the oar.

1. He knew when he got put below deck and chained up, there was a tremendous chance that is exactly where he would die.

2. He knew he was committed for life.

B. The same is true for the Christian (Revelation 2:10).

C. It is said that when Hernan Cortes reached the shores of what would become Veracruz, Mexico, that he unloaded all 700 men and the supplies off of his 11 ships and then burned the ships so the men understood they were committed to this expedition.

1. Those men were not going back to Spain.

2. They were in Mexico for life.

D. When we obey the gospel, we are making a lifelong commitment.

1. We are telling the world that we have made a life changing decision.

2. There's to be no going back to our old lives.

E. Everything has become new to us (2 Corinthians 5:17).

F. We aren't to go back to the old way of life because that person is dead.

1. Jesus committed His life for us.
2. There is no reason we should not commit our lives for Him.

From an article by Steve Higginbotham.