

relations with each other. Though it is admittedly a sinful tendency, people who work together tend to size one another up and decide what their advantages and disadvantages are in relation to each other. People are very conscious of the symbols that are appropriate to their position. If someone thought to be below them possesses the status symbols of someone above them, it is a potentially tense situation. For example, if a young associate minister lives in a house that is bigger and more expensive than the senior minister or others on the team, it is thought to be inappropriate. Also, if one in a lesser position possesses more education or has achieved other honors, it could become the occasion for interpersonal conflict.

Status symbols among ministers are not only related to these external things. More important are the "spiritual" status symbols; how well a man can preach; how many converts has he seen in his ministry; how many enemies he has left wounded and bleeding in the field; and not to be neglected, the approval he has received from others. (For example, honorary doctorates.)

The Corinthian Christians discussed the relative merits of Paul, Peter, and Apollos, and divided into groups based on their evaluation of which of these was "the greatest." In all probability, their arguments related to the preaching or teaching skills of the different men.

It is clear that the preachers themselves did not encourage this comparison; it was the congregation's idea. A similar scene is sometimes created today in a church with a multiple staff. Despite