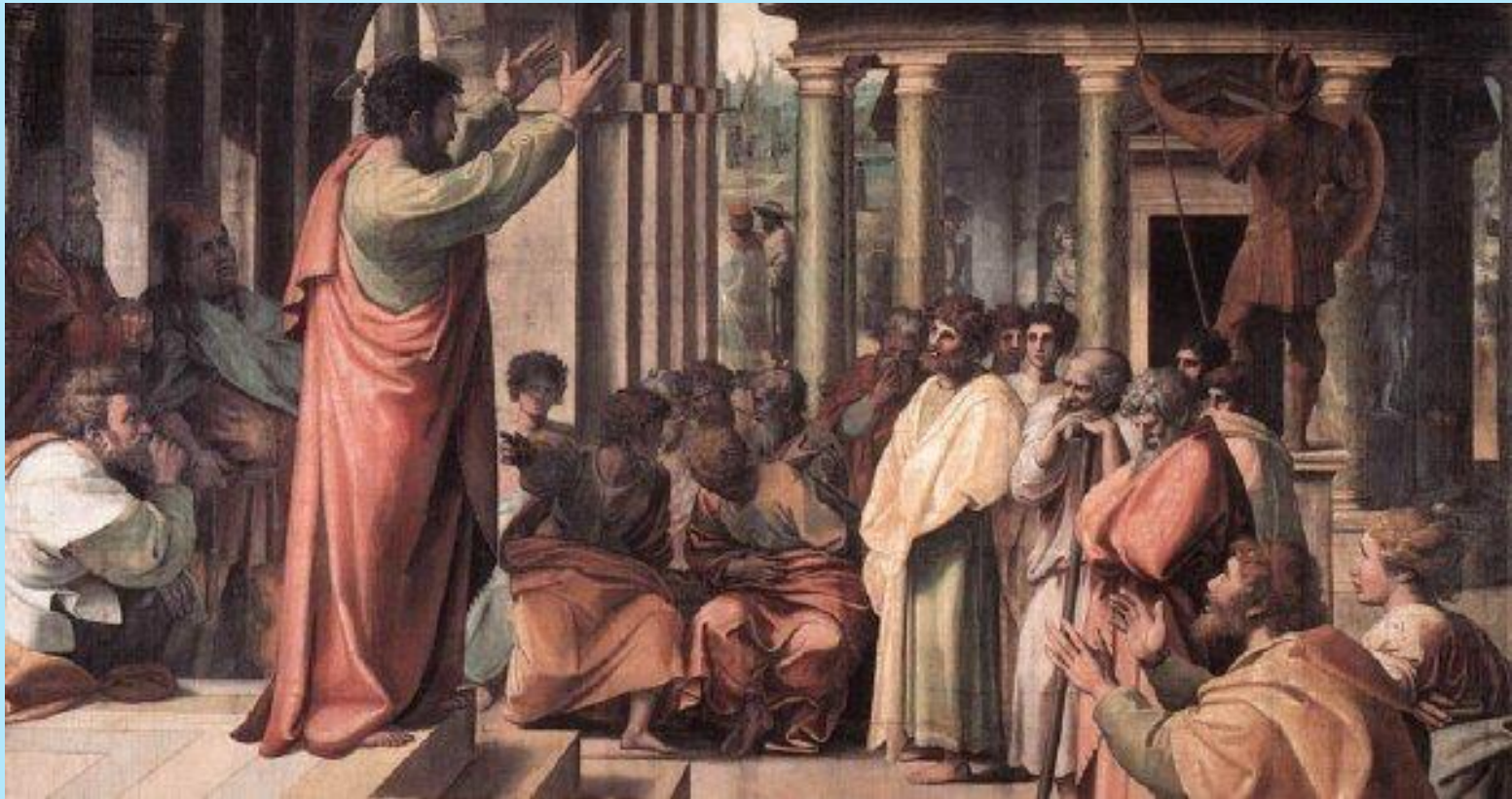


Playing the Fool for Christ's Sake



2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Everybody Plays the Fool

- Everybody plays the fool sometime

There's no exception to the rule

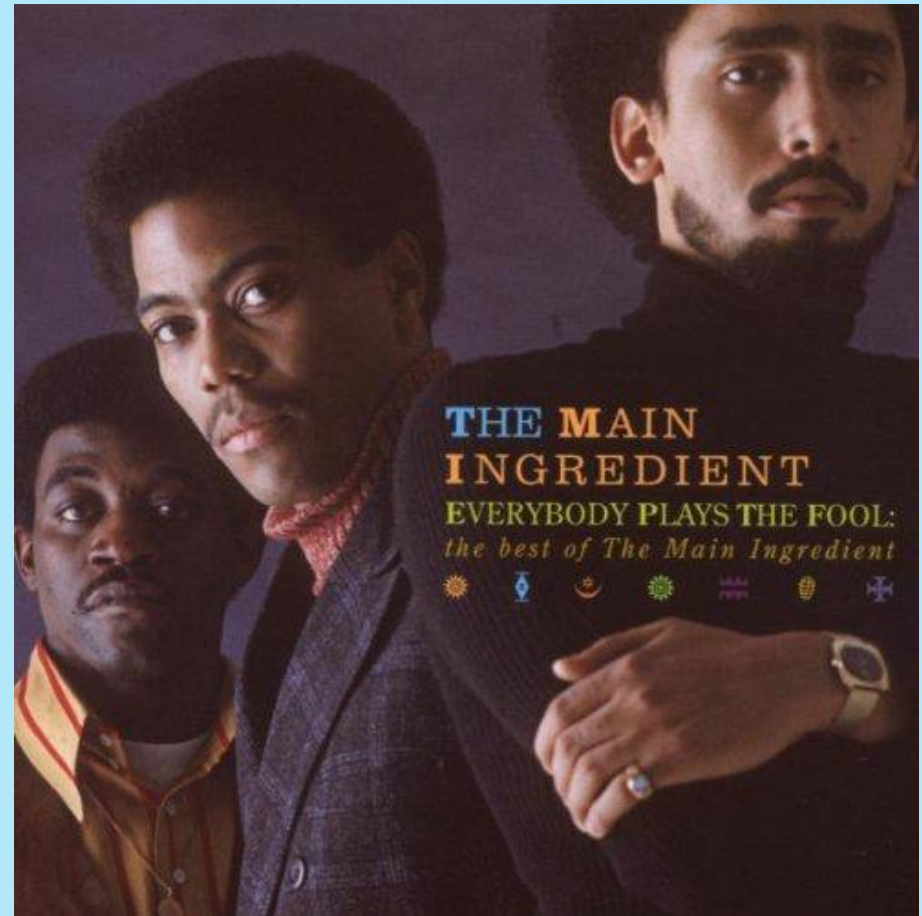
Listen, baby, it may be factual, may be cruel

I ain't lyin', everybody plays the fool

Falling in love is such an easy thing to do

And there's no guarantee that the one you love

Is gonna love you



Playing the Fool: Boasting



12:11a “I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it.” (NIV)

Playing the Fool: Boasting



A Culture of Boasting: The Super-Apostles
12:11c “even though I am nothing”

Playing the Fool: Apostle



12:12 “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, signs and wonders and mighty works.” (NRSV)

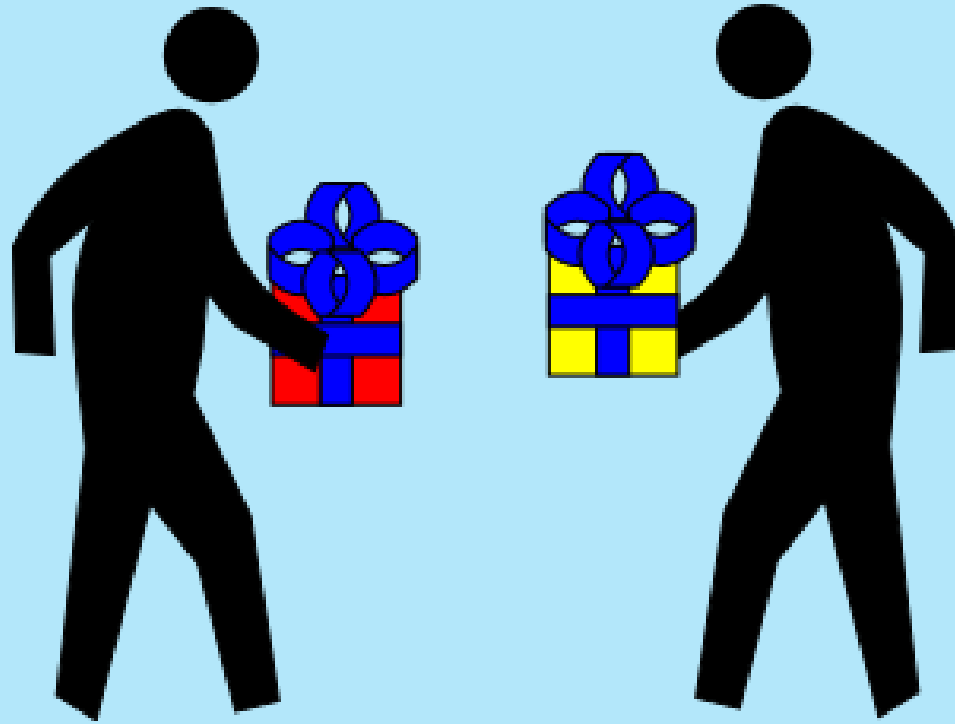
Playing the Fool: Apostle



1:19a “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us” (NIV)

4:5 “For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” (NIV)

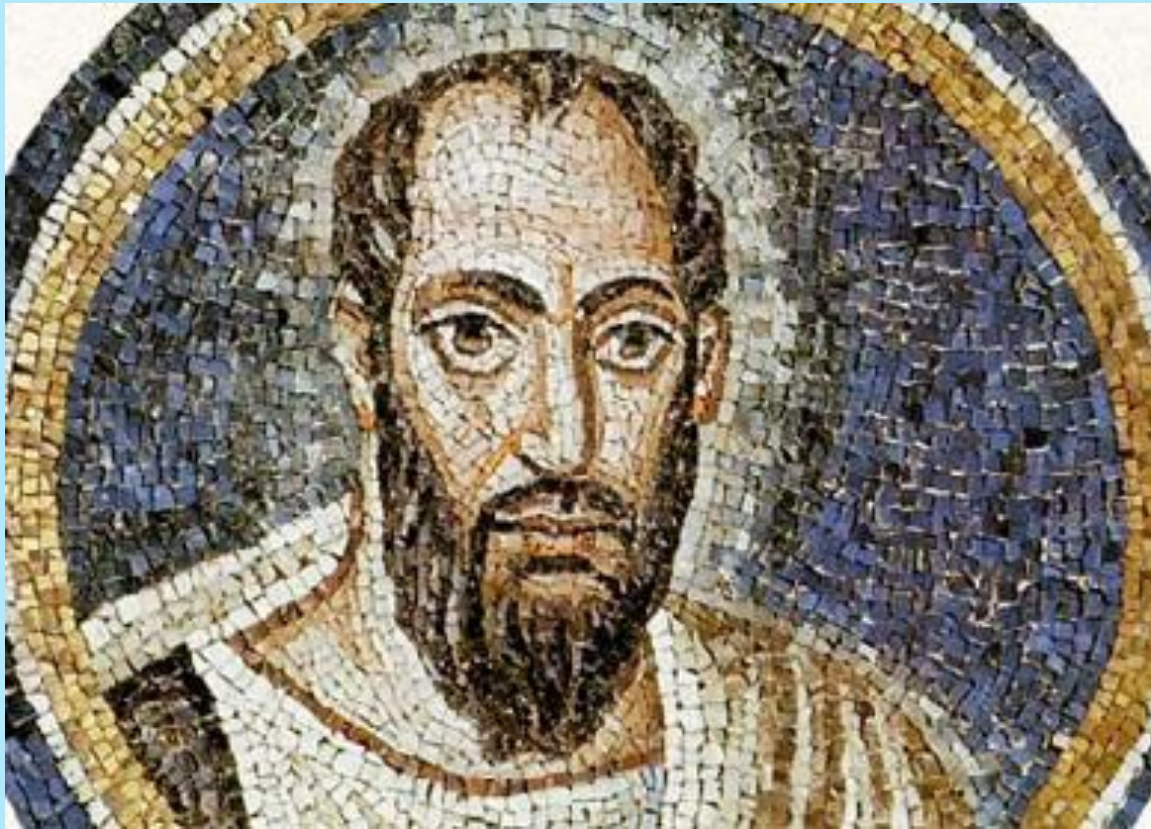
Playing the Fool: Apostle



A Culture of Reciprocity: Patronage

12:13b, 14b “I was never a burden to you –
Forgive me this wrong!” “. . . I will not be a
burden to you. . . .” (NIV)

Playing the Fool: Apostle



**An Accusation: Theft of Monies for the poor in
Jerusalem**

12:16-18 Was Paul crafty? Was Titus involved?

Playing the Fool: Love



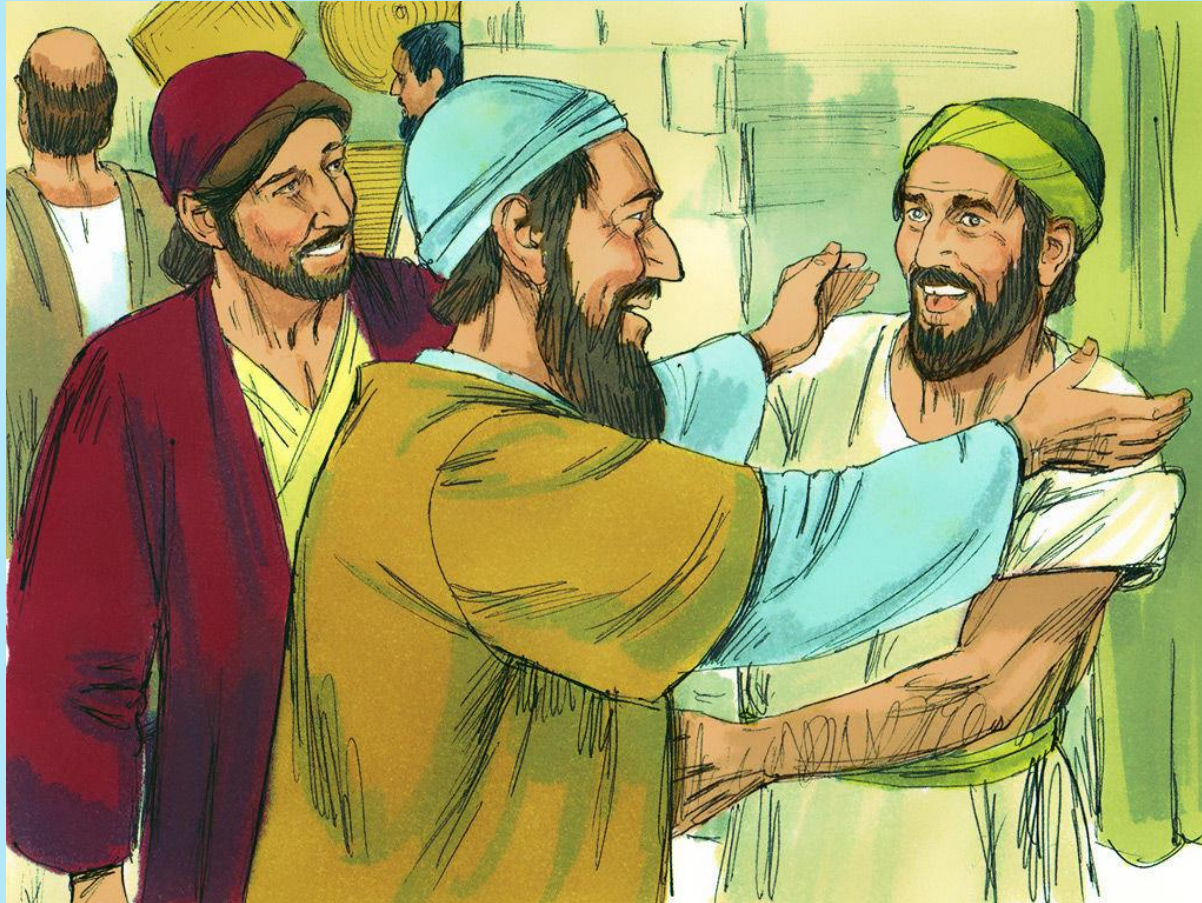
12:14b “I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.” (NIV)

Playing the Fool: Love



12:15 “So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?” (NIV)

Playing the Fool: Love



12:19c “Everything we do, beloved, is for the sake of building you up.” (NRSV)

Summary

- “And there's no guarantee that the one you love is gonna love you”
- Paul became as a fool for the Corinthian church by:
 - Boasting;
 - Being a true Apostle;
 - And expressing true fatherly love.