

Biblical Leadership and Service

II Corinthians 10:7 Do ye look on things after the **outward appearance?** If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he *is* Christ's, even so *are* we Christ's. 8 For though I should **boast somewhat more of our authority,** which **the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction,** I should not be ashamed: 9 That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. 10 For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible. 11 Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such *will we be* also in deed when we are present.

12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or **compare ourselves with some that commend themselves:** but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

13 But we will not boast of things without *our* measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. 14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond *our measure,* as though we

reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in *preaching* the gospel of Christ: 15 Not boasting of things without *our* measure, *that is*, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, 16 To preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. 17 But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, **but whom the Lord commendeth.**

- There is a great problem in the local church today and it has to do with spiritual leadership
- First spirituality is considered to be something external or on the "do" level of our lives when it is actually on the "be" level-who I am in Christ
- Much spiritual leadership is thought of as being about a great leader
- Many get a position and want to Lord it over their brothers and sisters in Christ
- Spiritual authority seems to get to the point of building up oneself rather than lowering oneself to serve others

- Things with our Lord are always the opposite of how this world views them
 - To live we die
 - To go up we go down
 - To be whole we must be broken
 - To be filled we must be emptied
 - To get we must give
 - To lead we must serve

1. Spiritual warfare and spiritual life are not an external thing

7 Do ye look on things after the **outward appearance**? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he *is* Christ's, even so *are* we Christ's.

a. The Corinthians were judging Paul based on his external appearance 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who **in presence am base among you**, but being absent am bold toward you: 10 For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but ***his* bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.**

i. Paul was not the best looking man of God

- ii. He didn't do or have externally what might call attention to himself
- iii. His speech or preaching wasn't that impressive
- b. Paul reminds them that though he might not have the appearance he was truly born again and a servant of God
7 Do ye look on things after the outward appearance?
If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.
 - i. Belonging to Christ isn't about outward appearance but internal faith
 - ii. Belonging to Christ isn't a result of what you do but what He did
 - iii. Too many people want to think that their morality gets them into a right relationship with God or at least proves it
 - iv. The truth is that real salvation is a matter of realizing that you have sinned against a holy God and do not deserve your salvation
- c. Paul might be in the flesh but the spiritual battles aren't fought by your fleshly appearance or abilities **10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the**

flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal*, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 **Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

- i. We are in the flesh but it is not the flesh that lives the Christian life
- ii. True Christianity is a matter of the heart
- iii. It will affect the way we live but it will start in our thought life
- iv. That is why it is a matter of the be level-get the Word of God into your heart and mind

2. The use and abuse of spiritual authority 8 For though I should **boast somewhat more of our authority**, which **the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction**, I should not be ashamed: 9 That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. 10 For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible. 11 Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters

when we are absent, such *will we be* also in deed when we are present.

- a. Spiritual authority is very different from the authority exercised by the gentiles, the world [Mark 10:35-45](#) And **James and John, the sons of Zebedee**, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldst **do for us whatsoever we shall desire.** [36](#) And he said unto them, **What would ye that I should do for you?** [37](#) They said unto him, Grant unto us that **we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.** [38](#) But Jesus said unto them, **Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of?** and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? [39](#) And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: [40](#) But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared. [41](#) And when **the ten heard it**, they began to be **much displeased** with James and John. [42](#) But Jesus called them *to him*, and

saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to **rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them;** and their great ones **exercise authority** upon them. 43 **But so shall it not be among**

you: but whosoever will be **great among you, shall be your minister:** 44 And whosoever of you will **be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.**

45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but **to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

- i. James and John want Jesus to do for them what they want!
- ii. They are seeking authority, rank, privilege in the kingdom Jesus is going to establish
- iii. They claim to be prepared to pay the price to get it
- iv. Jesus explains to them that authority, rank, leadership in His kingdom is very different than in the world 42 **But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to **rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them;** and their great ones **exercise authority** upon them.**

v. In God's kingdom the great are the greatest servants

43 But so shall it not be among you:

but whosoever will be **great among you, shall be your minister:** **44** And whosoever of you will **be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.** **45**

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but **to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

b. Spiritual authority comes from the Lord **8** For though I should **boast somewhat more of our authority,** which **the Lord hath given us** for **edification, and not for your destruction,** I should not be ashamed:

i. Spiritual, Biblical authority is used to build up and not to tear down the church.

ii. Biblical authority is not about building up the man but God's people

iii. Biblical authority is not about being recognized but serving

- c. Paul may write hard letters but it was because it was what was needed and he could do it in person if he needed to but he loves them even as he writes or preaches
 - d. Your use of your authority speaks volumes about your maturity and character
 - i. Mature people grow with their authority and cause others to grow around them
 - ii. Mature people do not demand respect but command it
 - iii. Mature leaders can wait on their people rather than rush ahead forcing them to do what they are not ready to do
3. Spiritual living and spiritual leadership are not based on our comparing ourselves to others **12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.**
- a. We often want to determine our spirituality by how we compare to other Christians or ministries

- b. Churches want numbers to prove their ministry, buildings, or budgets
 - c. Comparing ourselves will cause us to condemn ourselves or commend ourselves
 - d. Spiritual growth is not based on how I rate compared to someone else
 - e. God will not judge me or reward me for how I live and do compared to others but to what His will is for my life
4. Spiritual living and leadership are based on serving where God placed us in the ministry He has for us **13 But we will not boast of things *without our measure*, but according to the measure of the rule which **God hath distributed to us**, a measure to reach even unto you. **14** For we stretch not ourselves ***beyond our measure***, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in *preaching* the gospel of Christ: **15 Not boasting of things *without our measure, that is, of other men's labours***; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, **16** To preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond**

you, *and* not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

- a. God had given to Paul a measure of ministry, a place, a job, talents, abilities and that was where Paul intended to labor
- b. Paul wasn't seeking to do someone else's ministry like the Judaizers but rather the ministry the Lord gave him
- c. Paul simply wanted to live out and be who God made him to be
- d. Paul was not going to build on another man's work but seek to do his own work
- e. Paul was not going to be satisfied but continue to stretch out and see where else he could carry the gospel and do his ministry

5. Spiritual living and leadership seek the Lord's approval **17**
But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, **but whom the Lord commendeth.**

- a. We are not to glory in our ministry or our own spiritual life
- b. We are not to glory in how we compare to others

- c. We are not to glory in ourselves, who we are, how we look, how much we do
- d. We are to glory in the Lord, who He is, what He has done
- e. Our heart is to seek the Lord's commendation, His blessing, His being pleased with our work

- Have you been too focused on the externals and not on what is happening in your heart?
- Have you been seeking to exercise authority with the wrong motive or for the wrong purpose?
- Are you comparing yourself with others to feel good or bad about yourself and your ministry?
- Are you seeking to do what God has given you to do?
- Are you seeking the Lord's approval instead of man's approval?