



Part 14: Positive Leadership 2 Cor. 10:7-18

The number of spiritual leaders today is bewildering: In bookstores, online, on TV... but who can you trust? And as you lead others, how can you remain trustworthy and effective? In these verses, Paul talks about good and bad leadership.

Key verse: *"You are looking only on the surface of things." v. 7 NIV*
"The trouble with you is that you make your decisions on the basis of appearance." v. 7 NLT

Jesus: *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them." Matt. 7:15,16*

Six signs of good leadership:

1. Looks _____

"If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that as he is Christ's, so are we." v. 7 RSV

2. Lifts _____

"Look at what is before your eyes... For even if I boast a little too much of our authority which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I shall not be put to shame. I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters." v. 7a-9

"...you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face." 2 Cor. 11:20

3. Lives _____

"For some say, 'His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.' Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present." v. 10,11

4. Learns _____

2 Common Leadership Mistakes:

- _____
"We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise." v. 12
- _____
"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others." v. 13,14

5. Lets _____

"Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory." v. 15,16

_____ for open doors, and _____ through open doors

6. Lives _____

"But, 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.' For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends." v. 17,18

Application Questions:

How well do the leaders I follow demonstrate these six traits?

How well do I, as a leader, demonstrate these traits?

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"But, 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.' For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends." 2 Cor. 10:17-18*

Monday

Read 2 Cor. 10:7-18. Look back over your notes from last weekend. What truth from these verses stands out most to you?

How do Paul's attitudes and actions influence your ideas about leadership?

How do Paul's attitudes and actions influence your ideas about ministry?

Which of the main points do you need to focus on this week?

As you read through each of the main points, pray through them as well. Ask God to help you develop these characteristics in your life-- by His strength!

Tuesday

Read 2 Cor. 10:7. Why do people often look only on the surface of things?

How can looking only on the surface mislead us-- particularly when it comes to evaluating teachers and leaders?

How does Jesus say we should evaluate teachers in Matthew 7:15-20?

How is Jesus' comment about the Pharisees in Matthew 23:27,28 similar to 2 Cor. 10?

What surface judgments do you tend to make?

Ask God to give you the wisdom and discernment to see below the surface, especially when it comes to evaluating spiritual teachers.

Wednesday

Read 2 Cor. 10:8-11. Is "authority" more of a positive or a negative word to you? How so? Why?

How is Paul's exercise of authority different than those who oppose him?

From Paul's example here, what is supposed to be the "normal" way Christians exercise leadership?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you demonstrate this kind of leadership?

What will you work on this week that helps to build others up?

Thank God that in His leadership of your life, he is interested in building you up, not destroying you. Ask Him to show you specific ways you can build others up.

Thursday

Read 2 Cor. 10:12-18. Where do you struggle with comparing your life to others?

Why do you think Paul endorses boasting in the Lord, but condemns all other boasting?

How is "boasting" about God and his greatness and grace inspiring and healthy?

Read Psalm 34. List some of the things God does which David "boasts" about:

Now you boast about God in your prayer! Thank him for specific ways He has led you in your life! Look around and thank Him for things you see near you! And thank Him for His grace available through Jesus!

Friday

Paul talks a lot in 2 Corinthians about the difference between his gentle yet firm leadership and the overbearing leadership of the false teachers. Read Matthew 20:25-28. How is this parallel to Paul's warnings?

In what way did Jesus exemplify servant leadership?

What is one specific way you can show the servant leadership of Jesus in one of your important relationships?

Thank God for His gentle leadership of your life. Yield to His leadership anew today. Ask Him to help you lead in a godly, gentle way in the lives of those around you.

Saturday

Please finish any devotions you may have missed and review the memory verse for the week. Please pray for the services this weekend, that they will glorify and honor God.

Some questions this week adapted from *NavPress Lesson Maker* and *Serendipity Study Bible*