

Paul's Second  
Letter to the  
Corinthians

# FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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

*-- 2 Corinthians 10:17-18*

### Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 10:1-18
- Discussion Questions
- Outline & Lesson

**2 Corinthians 10 (ESV)** — **1** I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!— **2** I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. **3** For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. **5** We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, **6** being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

## 2 Corinthians

**7** Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. **8** 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 will not be ashamed. **9** I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. **10** For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." **11** Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. **12** Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

## 2 Corinthians

**13** But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. **14** For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. **15** We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, **16** so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. **17** "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." **18** For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

### Discussion Questions

#1

In verses 2 and 3, what is the difference in “walking in the flesh” and “walking according to the flesh”?  
See 1:17; 4:2; 12:16–18

## 2 Corinthians

**2 Corinthians 1:17 (ESV)** — 17 Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time?

**2 Corinthians 4:2 (ESV)** — 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.

### Discussion Questions

#### #1 b

## 2 Corinthians

**2 Corinthians 12:16–18 (ESV)** — 16 But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit. 17 Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? 18 I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?

### Discussion Questions

#1 c



### Discussion Questions #2

In verses 3-6, Paul says he is waging war and he describes his weapons. This list is metaphorical. What is the real weapon that Paul uses? See 1 Cor. 1:17–25; 2:1–5; 2 Cor. 4:1–6; Rom. 1:16

### Discussion Questions

#### #2b

**1 Corinthians 1:17–25 (ESV)** — 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (ESV)** — 1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

**2 Corinthians 4:1–6 (ESV)** — 1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.

**Romans 1:16 (ESV)** — 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Discussion Questions

#2c

### Discussion Questions

#### #3

In verse 8, Paul gives both a positive and a negative statement of the reason God gave him his authority as an apostle. What was this purpose?

### Discussion Questions

#### #4

In defending his right to exercise apostolic authority in Corinth – something the interlopers were apparently challenging – Paul gives two reasons why he has this authority. The first is in verse 13; the second in v 14b. What were they?

### Discussion Questions

#### #5

Paul has done much “boasting” defending his authority as an ambassador for Christ. In vv17-18 he gives a principle that explains whose honor he was actually defending. Whose? See also Jeremiah 9:23–24 and Luke 10:17–20

### Discussion Questions

#### #5b

**Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV)** — 23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

### I. Paul's Entreaty vv1-11

- A. A mistaken opinion vv 1, 2, 10
  - 1. Weak and ineffective –v1b (Illus: Wizard of Oz)
  - 2. Worldly motives v2b
  - 3. Unimpressive appearance and behavior v10
- B. A martial defense vv 3-6
  - 1. He wages war v3
  - 2. He has weapons for destruction v4
  - 3. He tears down obstacles v5a
  - 4. He takes captives v5b
  - 5. He is ready to punish disobedience v6
- C. An obvious truth v 7
- D. An appropriate boasting and realized authority vv8 - 11



### II. God's Commendation cc 12-18

- A. Self-comparison v12
- B. Area of Influence vv13, 14
  - 1. Basis of influence vv13; 14b
  - 2. Lands beyond vv15-16
- C. Ultimate evaluation vv17-18

### Application

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