

# Home Group Helps

## 2 Corinthians 10:7-18

### *A Proper Perspective*

**I. Proper Confidence (v.7-8)** – <sup>7</sup> You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. <sup>8</sup> For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame,

**II. Proper Genuineness (v.9-11)** – <sup>9</sup> for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters. <sup>10</sup> For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible." <sup>11</sup> Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons *we are* also in deed when present.

**III. Proper Comparisons (v.12)** – <sup>12</sup> For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

**IV. Proper Boasting (v.13-18)** – <sup>13</sup> But we will not boast beyond *our* measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you. <sup>14</sup> For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; <sup>15</sup> not boasting beyond *our* measure, *that is*, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, <sup>16</sup> so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, *and* not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. <sup>17</sup> But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.

**V. Proper Approval (v.18)** – <sup>18</sup> For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.

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#### 1. Launching Question(s):

- Name an experience that you have had when you have learned a proper perspective on some issue.

#### 2. Observation Question(s):

- What are some ways that we can practice the command of Jeremiah 9:23-24?
- <sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD."

### **3. Interpretation Question(s):**

- Paul says that comparing ourselves with others is indicative of someone “without understanding” (v.12).
- Do you agree with the commentator who stated, “Every time we look at another person and measure ourselves against them—we are throwing the door wide open to pride (if we can find a way to score ourselves higher than them) or its twin sister, self-pity (if we can’t)”?
- Look at vs.13-18 and consider when is boasting a sin and when is it not a sin?
- How is sinful comparison “the thief of joy”? (Roosevelt)
- Why is proper boasting “in the Lord” dependent on a “robust vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love”? (Chambers)

### **4. Reflection Question(s):**

- In what areas do you need to develop a proper perspective based on this text?

### **5. Application Question(s):**

- What is one thing that you can do this week to help you stop comparing yourselves with others?

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