

2 Corinthians 10:6-18

Boast About the Right Things!

V6 There is Spiritual discipline and _____ for disobedience! Hebrews 12:6 Yes, we are to be gentle and loving when we deal with brothers and sisters in Christ who “fall into sin”. Galatians 6:1 However the fact remains that we are to correct and help restore them. We are not to _____ sin or _____ it. Remember back in 1Corinthians chapter 5 Paul publicly rebuked and instructed the church to cast out the man who openly had an affair with his father’s wife. Paul wrote the Corinthians a scathing letter about their tolerance of this sin and many other sins being openly practiced in the church. That was part of the reason the Corinthians openly questioned Paul’s authority and criticized him so fervently with harsh personal attacks. This was ironic and hypocritical because they judged Paul and looked down on him for “judging sin” and so attempted to destroy the _____, ignoring the validity of the message.

They attempted to justify their sins and much more... Sound familiar? Sounds eerily like our society and churches today. Without getting into politics, let’s just say “cancel culture” is not new. People want to have their _____! 2 Timothy 4:3 Many times today if someone does not like or agree with what you say, they will attack you and ignore the truth of the argument or statement. Paul loved people, but never held back from the truth, and neither should we.

They attacked Paul in Three ways:

1. Worse sinner than they. Matthew 12:22-23, John 8:48, Moses Exodus 2:11-14, John 4 Samaritan woman at well, Luke 19:1-10
2. Physical appearance and personality Isaiah 53:1-4, 1 Samuel 17: 42. David vs Goliath
3. Lack of authority John 18:19-24, Matthew 28:19-20

Paul defends himself by _____!..... **About the right thing!** Paul does not boast about his skills or personality or appearance, but about what God is doing through His humble faithfulness to the _____ and how no one should ever compare themselves to one another but to _____! That way we are always humble and never arrogant or proud, but also, we are never humiliated because we are being used by God to accomplish great things far beyond our _____ or abilities. We are part of something infinitely bigger than ourselves. THE GOOD NEWS of JESUS CHRIST! Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8

Don’t attack your attackers!

Paul turns the arguments and accusations back on his accusers not by criticizing or disparaging them, their appearance, their personality, or even their sins, but by reminding them that they too are part of something bigger than themselves something beyond their _____. He encourages them to grow their _____ and to _____ for the cause of Christ! Hebrews 11:6 He challenges them to expand their _____ far beyond their own little selfish petty kingdoms and work to expand the kingdom of God and not waste time! Ephesians 5: 11-21

What a powerful admonition for Paul’s accusers and for all of us today! V17 and 18 Paul sums it up perfectly... Let us not boast in ourselves but in the Lord and let us not commend ourselves but let the Lord commend us because of our faith and obedience to the cause of Christ. We should be too busy serving Christ and serving other people to have the time to judge and attack others. So, use your God given skills and gifts and your weakness, your abilities, and inabilities, and humbly but boldly give them all to God and by faith spread the gospel to a dying world! Amen Matthew 25:21

Answers: punishment, ignore, excuse, messenger, ears tickled, boasting, gospel, Jesus, measure, measure, faith, labor, sphere of influence