

- I) V11-13 INTRO: I have *become a fool* in boasting; you have compelled me  
Paul has had to defend his apostleship before the Corinthian church  
The fact that he had to **defend his ministry** was of great concern to him
- II) As we have seen, false teachers had infiltrated the church, bringing error  
As their father in the faith, their being deceive by them caused him great grief
- III) The false teachers were Jewish and possibly bringing in Jewish legalism  
They deceived the church, elevating themselves and undermining Paul
- IV) One of the tactics they used was boasting about their spiritual accomplishments  
They were guilty of comparing themselves with Paul, reducing him
- V) Paul pointed out that this kind of boasting lacked **humility** as well as **wisdom**  
2 Co 10:12 We dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who **commend themselves**. But they, measuring themselves **by themselves**, and comparing themselves **among themselves**, are not wise
- VI) In ch. 11 Paul asked them to bear with him in a little folly  
He was jealous for them, like a father, and was concerned for them  
He feared that they might succumb to deception, and be brought into bondage
- VII) Because of his godly concern, he was forced into reviewing his credentials  
He spoke of his trials and the suffering he endured for the gospel's sake
- VIII) In ch 4 he spoke of being hard pressed, perplexed, and persecuted  
This was so the life of Jesus may be manifested in his body
- IX) These were things that he called **light afflictions**  
2 Co 4:17 Our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory
- X) He knew that they had an eternal effect and he had an **eternal perspective**  
**IN CH 11**
- XI) He again said he went through pain, weariness, hunger and thirst  
He suffered persecution, beatings, perils, fatigue, labors, hunger, thirst, betrayal  
These were physical things that he endured for the sake of the gospel

- I) He then went on to share with them concerning his **spiritual experiences**  
He spoke spiritual visions, as well as revelations he had received
- II) One of the things he wrote of was something that happened 14 years earlier  
This spiritual experience resulted in him being given **a thorn in the flesh**
- III) It was so terrible that he begged God to remove it, only to hear God say **No**  
The result was a very deep lesson: God's strength is perfected in weakness
- IV) V9 He made it clear that if he was going to boast, it would be in his weaknesses  
Why? Because the power of Christ will rest on him
- V) **Rest:** To dwell in, like a tabernacle (tent)  
The same basic word used in Jn 1:14  
Jn 1:14 The Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us
- VI) The power of Jesus **tabernacles on him**, dwelling in and around him  
God's power was like the **shechinah cloud**, encompassing and protecting him
- VII) V10 I take pleasure in infirmities, in **reproaches** (insults), in needs, in persecutions  
He is carnal, fickle, a bully, unloving, arrogant, proud, weak, boring, inferior
- VIII) He was able to carry on because he was doing this for the sake of Jesus  
This is similar to what he told the Colossians  
Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church
- IX) Jesus' suffering was sufficient for salvation  
His suffering helped the church to grow and complete its mission  
Trials and suffering is part of the life of the church
- X) V10 Why would he take pleasure in these things?  
Because when he is weak, then he is made strong  
2 Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power **may be of God and not of us.**

**AT THIS POINT HE CONTINUES OPENING UP HIS HEART**

- XI) His love for God and for them is compelling him to share

- I) Earlier, he had told them that he was opening his heart to them  
2 Co 6:11-13 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open! You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open!
- II) V11 I have become a fool in boasting. **You** have compelled me  
I know I am giving ammo to my foes and they will use these things against me!  
I did not want to share the things that I have just shared, **but I had to**
- III) You should have spoken in my defense, but you didn't  
You allowed their charges to go unchallenged and **some believed them**
- IV) I have been forced to defend myself because you refused to speak up for me  
By your silence, you have forced me to defend myself
- V) V11 For in nothing was I behind the most **eminent apostles**  
This is not speaking of the original apostles, but of the false apostles  
2 Co 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ  
**IMPORTANT**
- VI) This response did not rise from hurt feelings or wounded pride  
It was because vulnerable, new believers were in danger of being swayed
- VII) His response rose out of love and concern **for them**  
He desired them to be free in the Lord and not under the yoke of bondage
- VIII) Earlier he had written concerning what these false teachers had been doing  
2 Co 11:20 Reveals they were enslaving them, devouring their finances, taking advantage of them, lording it over them and openly humiliating these precious sheep
- IX) When they stumbled because of these false teachers, Paul was outraged!  
2 Co 11:29 Who is weak and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?
- X) V11 In the midst of his rebuke, his humility shines forth  
Though I should have been commended by you I realize that **I am nothing**  
I am a nobody, and I know it :the only thing of value I have brought is the gospel

- I) Paul knew God, and because he did, **he also knew himself**  
1 Co 3:5-7 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? **Only servants**, through whom you came to believe --as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, **but only God**, who makes things grow.
- II) He wasn't a Christian superstar but knew without Jesus he was nothing  
Eph 3:8 Unto me, **who am less than the least of all saints**, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ
- III) Paul knew that he was a servant of the Lord, the least of the least  
He was simply an unworthy servant, dependent on the Lord  
**QUOTE**
- IV) He who knows himself best, esteems himself least.
- V) Despite the fact that I am nothing, God still has used me mightily in His service  
**This is not** something that the **false apostles** can rightfully claim
- VI) Because Paul is being challenged by false apostles, he now has to respond  
He clearly outlines one of his qualifications
- VII) V12 Truly the **signs of an apostle** were accomplished among you  
This was one of the qualifications of someone holding the office of apostle  
**DEVELOP**
- VIII) The word speaks of someone sent out with delegated authority  
In this way it could be used in a general sense  
Barnabas (Ac 14:14) and James the Lord's brother (Gal 1:19) are called apostles
- IX) They were not original apostles, but were delegated as messengers
- X) To be recognized with apostolic authority required various qualifications  
**First:** An apostle was specifically chosen by Jesus (Mt 10:1-5, Jn 15:16))  
Ac 1:26 Matthias was specifically chosen to replace Judas by lot  
Ac 9:15 Paul was called a chosen vessel by Jesus
- XI) **Second:** An apostle walked with Jesus from the beginning to His resurrection  
He was to be a witness to the resurrection of Jesus (Ac 1:21-22)

- I) He was to have seen the Lord after Jesus was resurrected (1 Co 9:1)  
1 Co 15:8 Paul said **Last of all** He was **seen by me** also  
**THIRD**
- II) Apostles were foundations of the church **through their teaching**  
Eph 2:20 having been build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ hiself being the chief cornerstone  
**FOURTH**
- III) An apostle performed signs, wonders and mighty deeds  
This is how they proved that they were sent by God
- III) Paul speaks of signs, wonders and mighty deeds, which certify his apostleship
- IV) **Signs**: Pointing to Jesus, encouraging people to believe in Him (Jn 20:30-31)  
Ac 2:22 Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by  
God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as  
you yourselves know.
- V) **Wonders**: Works of power (the effect of the miracle on those witnessing it)  
Ac 5:12 By the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought  
among the people;  
**Mighty deeds**: Dunamis: Holy Spirit power for performing miracles
- VI) V12 He states **these works were wrought among you**  
1 Co 2:4 My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human  
wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power
- VII) The signs of an apostle were wrought amongst them: they should have noted this  
Instead, they listened to the words of false teachers **who had no credentials**  
**KEY**
- VIII) The false apostles could not claim to have these abilities  
They were deceitful workers, transforming themselves into into apostles 11:13-15)  
**SOME ASK IF THERE ARE MODERN DAY APOSTLES**
- IX) No one today can meet the qualifications Scripture gives for being an apostle  
No one living today has been specifically called to be an apostle by Jesus  
No one alive today is an eyewitness of Christ's resurrection  
No one possesses the miraculous capabilities of an apostle  
No one today is giving and writing **inspired doctrine**

- I) V13 For what is it in which **you were inferior to** other churches except that I myself  
The infiltrators said he didn't love them because he didn't receive their support  
He did from the Macedonians, so this proves he doesn't love you!
- II) Were you loved less and treated differently because I refused to burden you?  
To **burden** them is another way of saying: I didn't sponge off of you!  
**HIS POINT**
- III) Why have you listened to those who have no credentials, **yet are parasites**?
- IV) Demanding support is not **the sign** of an Apostle!  
Receiving financial support is **a privilege**, not the sign of genuineness
- V) In 1 Co 9 he said **he had a right** to support, but did not exercise that right  
These parasites make demands on your finances, and you think them authentic
- VI) V14 For the third time I am ready to come to you and I will not be burdensome to  
I am in ready for my visit to Corinth, but still will not take support from you!  
**WHY?**
- VII) V14b For I do not seek yours, **but you** For the children ought not to lay up for  
I love you, for your own sake  
I am not taking financial advantage of you, because I love you like a father
- VIII) As a true minister, Paul did not use them to make his own life financially richer  
1 Pe 5:2-3 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers,  
not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords  
over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock
- IX) I am pouring myself out for you, as a father gives totally of himself for his children  
I am leaving you something worth more than wealth, but **spiritual treasure**
- X) On one hand, leaving something for our children is not a bad thing  
Pr 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children  
Pr 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents
- XI) The fact is: they can have **wealth** but still be poor  
A good mother or father leaves behind something far more valuable: **faith in God**

- I) V15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more Paul loved them as a father loves his own children though some did not care
- II) Less love on their part would not diminish his efforts to lovingly care for them  
The more of the love of God was poured on them the less he was loved by them  
**SADLY**
- III) Ch 11 They put up with being brought into spiritual bondage, took their money, used them to gain prestige, lorded over them, and humiliated them **yet they loved these false teachers**
- IV) This is the way of man: We can easily reject the genuine for the fake  
We can easily be swayed and deceived, and take the less over the better  
**HIS THOUGHT**
- V) I love **you**, not the things that you own: I do not need your material things  
My love for you is real and in Christ: I refuse to manipulate you, or take from you  
I don't want my children's material things: I want them, and for them to love Jesus  
**HIS POINT**
- VI) False teachers use you and only take from you (11:20)  
As your spiritual father, I do not use you, but instead desire to give to you
- VII) Paul was a true shepherd who loved them  
1 Th 2:8 We cared so deeply for you that we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but our very lives. That is how dear you were to us  
**THE HEART OF A SHEPHERD**
- VIII) I will spend and be spent for your souls, regardless of how you love me in return  
I love you with my hand wide open
- IX) V16 But be that as it may I did not burden you. But being **crafty**, I caught you with  
**24<sup>TH</sup> ACCUSATION**
- X) Paul, is shrewd, and has taken advantage of them  
When he takes the money to the church in Jerusalem, he will steal from it
- XI) V17-18 Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you  
Titus, and two unnamed disciples who were to carry their offering to Jerusalem  
Ch. 8:16-17, 18, 22 speaks of these three ministers
- XII) Has he, or Titus, or these trusted men been greedy

- I) Have any of us defrauded you in any way  
If Titus did not take advantage of you, then obviously you can trust me too
- II) V19 Again do you think we *excuse ourselves* to you? We speak before God in  
I am not on trial before you! It is before God that I walk and to Him I give account
- III) You are not my judges, so why do I have to explain myself to you?  
1 Co 4:3-4 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, *I do not even judge myself*. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.
- IV) V19 We speak before God in Christ  
We answer to God and our hearts are pure because we fear and love Him  
Being aware of this, we strive to keep our consciences pure before Him
- V) V19 In the end, we do all things, beloved, for your edification  
1 Co 10:33 I please all men in all things, *not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many*, that they may be saved.
- VI) V20 For I fear lest when I come, I shall not find you such **as I wish**  
My desire is to find you maturing : I am afraid I will discover you to be carnal  
This now becomes a stern warning to them
- VII) V20 The result will be, I will have to be a stern, correcting father  
**REMEMBER**
- VIII) Your behavior reveals what you believe: your doctrine results in deeds
- IX) The fruit of believing wrong things is chaos and division  
Contentions: Strife, wrangling  
Jealousies: Envious, contentious rivalry  
Outbursts of wrath: Passionate anger, boiling up and subsiding  
Selfish ambitions: A desire to put one's self ahead of others for selfish reasons  
Backbitings: Defamation, evil speaking concerning someone else  
Whisperings: Secret slandering  
Conceits: A puffing up of soul, swelling with pride  
Tumults: Instability, a state of disorder and confusion

- I) V21 And lest when I come again my God will humble me among you  
When I see you, it will break my heart to see your unrepentant, spiritual condition  
Gal. 4:19-20 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be  
formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand  
in doubt of you.
- II) This is something that I as a pastor understand  
To read some of the things believers post burdens my heart terribly  
Social media speeds up the distribution of error and gossip
- III) V21 lest when I come again my God will humble me among you and I shall mourn  
I have mourned over you before: I do not desire to have to mourn over you again
- IV) V21 Have not repented: Some members are **guilty of unrepentant sin**
- V) He uses **three words** to describe one kind of sin: Sexual immorality  
Uncleanness: The impurity of lustful living  
Fornication: Adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, etc.  
Licentiousness: Unbridled lust, outrageousness, or shamelessness  
**HIS CONCERN**
- VI) If they have not repented, they will not inherit the kingdom of God
- VII) The kingdom of God is not populated by **unrepentant sinners**  
1 Co. 6:9-11 Know you not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of  
God? *Be not deceived*: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate,  
nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor  
revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such **were some** of you:  
but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord  
Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.