

- I) V7-9 INTRO: Do you look at things according to the **outward appearance**? If **CONTEXT**
- II) False teachers have entered the church and have been working to undermine Paul
They have systematically accused him of various sins and personal weaknesses
WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN MANY OF THESE CHARGES
- III) He suffers because he deserves to, he is carnal, he is vague when he speaks, changes his mind easily, is self-appointed, is a bully and an unemotional intellect who lacks love. He forces people to leave the church and peddles his message to make money off of his followers. He has no letters of commendation and labors in the flesh. He is deceitful, twisting scripture and preaches himself, not Jesus. He is a madman who corrupts the church, using guilt to extort money from them! He pretends to be humble, but this is because he is in fact, a coward! He is a paper tiger, unimpressive in appearance and a boring, untrained speaker!
INTERESTINGLY
- IV) They concentrated their attacks on his character and calling
If they could discredit him, they could undermine his **message and ministry**
- IV) In Corinth the false apostles concentrated on damaging Paul's reputation
It is their hope to undermine Paul to take his place as the Lord's representatives
AT THIS POINT
- V) I have made mention of these false teachers often over the weeks
At this point let me share a few things about them
WHO ARE THESE FALSE TEACHERS?
- VI) Paul gives us information about them throughout the letter
FIRST (THIS IS TRUE TODAY: MEDIA)
- VII) They were infiltrators, needing letters of recommendation
They used this against Paul and Paul responded to them
2 Co 3:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, **like some people**, letters of recommendation to you or from you?
SECOND
- VIII) They were pseudo-intellectuals, fashioning arguments that lacked substance
Ch 10:5 This is what Paul addressed when he said **Casting down arguments**
Arguments (Reasonings): A way of thinking that is hostile to revealed doctrine
THIRD
- IX) They claimed to have a **superior ministry** to Paul's
Ch 11:5 Refers to them as *eminent* (super apostles), reducing Paul's authority
FOURTH

- I) They were **mercenaries**, greedy for gain, drawing disciples after themselves
Ch 11:7-8 Paul preached to them free of charge, but the false disciples didn't
2 Co 11:20 If one devours you (strips you of your goods)

FACT

- II) This was and remains common, and Paul condemned this in other letters
1 Th 2:5 Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you very well know.
And God is our witness that we were not just pretending to be your friends so you
would give us money!

FIFTH

- III) They were **false apostles**, attempting to appear as genuine apostles
Ch 11:13 Reveals them to be emissaries of Satan and false teachers

SIXTH

- IV) They were Jewish, possibly attempting to bring believers in bondage to Law
Ch 11:22 Paul makes this clear by comparing his credentials with theirs

QUESTION

- V) Why are they **casting doubt** on Paul and his credentials
A **teacher** is more than simply a **speaker** or disseminator of information
By casting doubts on his **character** and **credentials** they undermine his **teaching**

- VI) The lifestyle of the messenger, very often, validates the message
The authority the minister exercises is a **moral and spiritual authority**
Titus 1:9 (The pastor) must hold firm **to the trustworthy word as taught**, so that
he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who
contradict it

IMPORTANT

- VII) Paul was not afraid of having his credentials examined

- VIII) His life was transparent, and he was confident that he lived properly
1 Th 1:5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the
Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for
your sake

ON THE OTHER HAND

- IX) **False** and unqualified teachers don't allow their credentials to be examined
They have a tendency of getting extremely defensive when questioned
They don't have God's anointing, but are self-appointed

- X) Biblical authority is not the fruit of **ambition or** the pursuit of fame

- I) It is **God given** and not sought after in a selfishly ambitious manner
Paul was called by God, so he had no problem having his credentials examined
18TH CHARGE
- VII) He now addresses an 18th charge: Paul's ministry is unsuccessful
- III) V7 Do you look at things according to the **outer appearance**
- IV) Paul's opponents were using **outward appearance** as proof of their authority
It **could** have been their **outward confidence**, as they taught (11:6)
It **might** have included their **false claims** to be apostles (11:13)
- V) It **did include** criticism of his **looks**, his speaking and way of teaching (10:10)
- VI) As is true to this day, they may have been pointing to their number of followers
THE 18TH CHARGE
- VII) They are outwardly successful, but Paul isn't
These false teachers were comparing their accomplishments with those of Paul
KEY
- VIII) Though he is referring **specifically** to the false teachers, he addresses **the church**
This is because there are those **in the church** who have been influenced
HIS QUESTION
- IX) Do you think I am spiritually weak, frail, and lack boldness and courage
Do you only see my **outward infirmities** while ignoring **God's power** upon me?
- X) The false teachers and the numbers that follow them are impressive
Paul says: don't allow the outer trappings of anointing and success fool you
These are self-appointed false teachers, teaching a false gospel
HE DEVELOPS THIS
- XI) V7b If anyone is convinced **in himself** that he is Christ's, let him again consider
POINT
- XII) Paul had not taken the mantle of ministry upon himself, but was given it by God
They were self-appointed and relying on their own natural talents and eloquence
- XIII) In contrast to Paul, there really was no comparison between them
They were not selected by Jesus, were not apostles, and may not even be saved
- VII) In contrast: Paul was called, planted Churches, and had paid a price for his faith

- I) What had the false teachers accomplished, besides causing division?
- II) V7 If anyone is convinced in himself that *he is Christ's*, let him consider this in himself: that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's
HIS REQUEST
- III) Since my opponents are saying *they belong to Jesus*, I should be granted this also
At least give me the benefit of equal standing
- IV) V8 For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, *which the Lord*
THOUGHT
- V) My words are true: I am not puffing myself up and I am not self-appointed
1 Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me into the ministry*
- VI) I have apostolic authority, so my boast will never be empty; it is founded on fact
Any claims by these others are simply not true
HOW IS AUTHORITY TO BE WIELDED
- VII) Our authority, which the Lord gave us, is *for edification*
I use my authority *to build you up*, not destroy you or to Lord over you
- VIII) He had already made this clear
2 Co 1:24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith *you stand*.
- IX) As a man called into ministry, Paul exhibited various qualities
He was loving, compassionate, and humble. He was a man of integrity, had a good conscience, taught sound doctrine, did not exploit people but instead, inspired them to love Jesus
PAUL WAS A LOVING SHEPHERD
- X) God had said: Jer 3:15 I will give you shepherds (feeders; pastors) according to My heart, who shall *feed you* with knowledge and understanding
- XI) Spiritual authority is *never to be used* to take advantage of or hurt others
This kind of abuse is a terrible sin, as we have seen in clergy scandals
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

- I) V9 Lest I seem to terrify you **by letters**
Lest I should be guilty of scaring you from a safe distance; **intimidating**
- II) They said he was abusive, referring to **his 1st letter** that called for church discipline
He didn't write to **terrify them**, but to encourage repentance because he loved them
- III) V10 For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence
19TH CHARGE
- IV) This charge isn't even spiritual: **He is unattractive**
There is no biblical description of Paul, but one came by way of church tradition
A small bald-headed, bow-legged, well-built man with a unibrow and a big nose
- V) It is believed that he may have had poor health and difficulty with his eyesight
He seems to be referring to this in his letter to the Galatians
Gal 4:13-15 As you know, it was *because of an illness* that I first preached the gospel to you. Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, *you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.*
THE FACT IS
- VI) It is **Jesus**, not His messenger, that is beautiful
IMPORTANT
- VII) Paul did not have a difficulty with being tested for proof of his apostleship
His ministry and teachings were open to close examination
- VIII) The words that are spoken are to be rightly judged by those who are listening
1 Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
1 Ti 5:20-21 Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.
- IX) His problem was the *criteria* they were using to judge him
They were judging according to **outward appearance**
2 Co 5:12 He mentioned those who **glory in appearance and not in heart**
- X) Outward appearance is not the only and best way of making spiritual judgments
Why? Because appearances can be deceiving
Dave Sleight and the deer

I) Mt 23:27-28 Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

WITH THAT SAID

II) Still, if they were to only use outside evidence it would prove him to be genuine
They themselves were the evidence of the reality of his ministry
1 Co 9:1-2 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?
Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? Even though I may not be an apostle to others, **surely, I am to you! For you are the seal** of my apostleship in the Lord.

20th CHARGE

III) V10 His speech is contemptible: Paul is untrained in speech (11:6)
He **writes** bold letters, but he is a boring, untrained, unimpressive speaker

THEIR THOUGHT

IV) The message is powerful, so the messenger should be impressive as he speaks

THEIR CRITICISM

V) He hasn't mastered public speaking, and has no **charisma** or **presence**
His message **lacks depth** and is not interesting

VI) Some people are amazing **public speakers** but aren't really saying anything
They are masters at entertaining, but their message is shallow

VII) He is being criticized and attacked by those trying to replace him
He has been wronged and is suffering personal attacks, and it hurts him
Ps 69:7 I **endure insults** for Your sake; humiliation is written all over my face.
Ps 69:10 When I weep and fast, **they scoff at me.**

VIII) Paul was a godly man being attacked for superficial reasons
My speaking is intended to **lift up Jesus**, not to impress people with who I am
My writing and behavior are consistent: I am not **double-minded**

IX) V11 Let such a person consider this that what we are in word by letters when we
What I am **when I am absent**, I **will be** when **I am present**

X) (V2) It has been said that I am weak, but when I am with you, I promise **I won't be**

- I) V12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who
How can I compete with someone who exaggerates their own greatness?
2 Co 11:5 reveals they are considered super apostles!
- II) This reminds me of what can happen in a church service during testimony times
The person following the first testimony can try to top it
- III) They may present themselves as wise, but in fact they have no wisdom at all
- IV) V13-14 We will not boast beyond measure but **within the limits** of the sphere which
God gave Paul a specific sphere to minister in: He is not going beyond it
- V) Paul knew the field that he was called to minister in, **and it included them**
He knew that God had called him to minister specifically to the gentiles
Gal 2:9 James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and
Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me.
They agreed that **we should go to the Gentiles**, and they to the circumcised.
- VI) V14 For we are not overextending ourselves as though our authority did not

This had led him to travel to Greece to preach the gospel, **eventually in Corinth**

Ac 16:9-10 (While in Troas) During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "**Come over to Macedonia** and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

IMPORTANT

- VII) Paul avoided building on another man's foundation
Ro 15:20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.
His desire was to work where God had called him
- VIII) V15 Not of boasting of things beyond measure that is **in other men's labors**
Other men's labors: Another man's sphere; someone else's boundary; province
Paul did not take credit for what another man had accomplished
- IX) In the US, much of the church growth is what is called transfer growth

- I) No pastor can claim success because of their own individual efforts
We all build on the foundation of those who came before us
Jn 4:35-38 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus **the saying** 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap **what you have not worked for**. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."
- III) These false teachers had invaded the field God had given Paul to minister in
They then boasted about how they had performed the work at Corinth
- IV) V15 that as your faith is increased we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our
I am waiting for your faith to mature, and you no longer need my presence
- V) I wait on your dealing with your carnal immaturity so I can continue preaching
I will wait for your faith to increase and for you to deal with the divisions
I wait on your dealing with the disorder that you continue entertain
- VI) V15 as your faith is increased we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere
As a missionary and evangelist, he **desired to continue reaching out**
As long as they remained immature, he had to stay to work with them
- VII) V16 to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you and not to boast in another
He desired them to grow in their maturity so that he could continue to evangelize
He wanted to continue proclaiming the gospel to the world
- VIII) Maturity enables the minister to leave and to continue serving God elsewhere
- IX) V17 But he who glories (boasts), **let him glory in the Lord**
The false teachers are bragging about their authority, success, and anointing
They arrogantly take the credit for anything that has been accomplished
- X) They ignore the fact that **if anything is accomplished**, God gets the glory
Ps 127:1 (Solomon) Unless the Lord builds the house they labor in vain who build it
Ps 115:1 Not to us, Lord, not to us but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness

- I) His opponents had boasted that the health of the Church **was due to them**
Paul was saying that anything of value is due to God doing the work
- II) We are simply entering into the work that the Lord is doing
1 Co 3:6-7 I have planted, Apollos watered; but *God gave the increase*. So then neither is he that plants any thing, neither he that waters; but God that gives the increase.
- III) V18 For not he who commends himself is approved but whom the Lord commends
Commends himself: Approves themselves; thinks well of themselves
Ro 12:3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.
- IV) The false teachers thought too highly of themselves, and their fans supported it
Paul made it clear they were looking for the honor given by men
- V) Our commendation is not from man, but from God
When we stand before Him in judgment, it is **His evaluation** that counts
This is what motivates us in our service: hearing **the well done** from Him (Mt 25)
- VI) Ro 2:6-7 God will repay each one according to his deeds. To those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life.