

Body by God

Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body

Who Do You Trust?

Introduction to 2 Corinthians 10-11

The late Johnny Carson got his big break in the 1950's game show "Who Do You Trust", in which the guests, to be able to win, had to make the correct decision on whether or not to trust him. In the same way, to be successful in life we must correctly determine who we can trust, an issue that Paul addressed in 2 Corinthians 10-11. The "false" apostles were attempting to gain trust by discrediting Paul; so he presented some guidelines to enable the church to determine who was truly worthy of trust. The first of these was that trustworthy people conduct themselves with integrity. Paul had been accused of being two-faced, of "talking big" when absent, but being very gentle when present. As he said, though, he didn't do ministry in this "fleshly"

way, but used God's spiritual weapons to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. His integrity led him to minister in God's strength, and to finish the job, regardless of the difficulty. He then presented the guideline that a trustworthy person compares themselves by God's standard, and not man's. He didn't allow the approval of others to sanction his ministry, and he didn't allow the work of others to be credited to him. These actions enable us to trust another. Thirdly, Paul showed that a person can be trusted when they are willing to confront their enemies, whether they are Satan, or his representatives; the one who can be trusted is willing to overcome their fear to confront



Following God's principles will develop a church body that

evil and untruth. Finally, Paul pointed out that a trustworthy person is one who courageously demonstrates commitment. This willingness to sacrifice shows the purity of one's convictions, which, in turn, engenders trust. In summary, finding these qualities in someone enables us to answer the question successfully, "Who do you trust?"

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Study/Discussion Questions for 2 Corinthians 10-11

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

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| 1. Read 10:1-3. What was Paul being accused of (v1)? What was really his approach (v1), and why (v2-3)? Why did that make him able to be trusted? | |
| 2. Using 10:4-6 identify the effects of the "weapons of God" (v4-5), and what each means. What you think these weapons are, and what is their ultimate purpose (v6)? Apply to your life. | |
| 3. From 10:7-11 what did some say about Paul (v10), and what was his evaluation of this (v7)? What was Paul's authority (v7-8), how did he use it (v9), and who authorized him (v8)? | |

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2 Corinthians 10-11 Study Questions (cont)

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| <p>4. According to 10:12-17 how did some measure themselves (v12), and how did Paul (v17-18)? What “real life” measure did Paul use for himself (v13-16)? Why was this approach wise?</p> | |
| <p>5. Looking at 11:1-4 what was Paul’s goal for the Corinthians (v2)? What did he fear had happened (v3), and by what means (v4)? What does this teach us?</p> | |
| <p>6. Based on 11:5-12 what 2 things had caused Paul to be misunderstood (v6, 7-9)? What was his response (v9-10), and why (v11-12)? What can we learn from his response?</p> | |
| <p>7. Using 11:13-15 how did Paul describe his adversaries (v13), what was their approach (v13-14), and why (v15)? How can we apply this?</p> | |
| <p>8. Read 11:16-20. How did Paul feel about his “boasting” (v16-17), but why did he do it (v18-19)? What wrong approach had “worked” with the Corinthians (20)? Why are people like that?</p> | |
| <p>9. From 11:21-22 what approach had Paul used (v21), but what were his “fleshly” credentials (v22)?</p> | |
| <p>10. According to 11:23-33 what sacrifices had Paul made that proved he was a true servant of Christ (v23-27, 28-33)? However, in what did he choose to boast (v30)? What would you boast in?</p> | |
| <p>11. From 2 Corinthians 10-11 write down how Paul showed himself trustworthy in his conduct, standards, courage, and commitment. Which area do you need to work on?</p> | |

Scripture to Remember

“If I must boast, I will boast of things that show my weakness.”

2 Corinthians 11:30

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Talk about the best neighbor you ever had. How good of a neighbor do you think you are, and why?
2. How had the Jews limited who they had to love (the omission, addition and definition)? Why did they, and why do we, tend to do this?
3. Why is true that you don’t have to *like* someone whom you *love*, in the sense of “*agape*” love (love of the “will”, rather than the “emotion”)?
4. In what ways has choosing to love someone you don’t like been good for you in the past—physically, psychologically, relationally, or spiritually?
5. Share which of the steps to “loving your enemy” you need to work on most—discovery, confession, prayer, or action. Pray for one another about this.
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the worship service if you have time.