

# Message Notes

## Proper Commendation

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the English Standard Version)

**Introduction** – 6th Man of the Year

**Sermon Series: Real/Fake Authority**  
**Today's Message:**  
*Proper Commendation*  
2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Quick Recap

- The Players: Paul, the Corinthians, and the “Super Apostles”
- Last week: What is spiritual authority?

A chief aim of spiritual authority:

“For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us **for building you up rather than pulling you down**, I will not be ashamed of it.”  
2 Corinthians 10:8

What is a proper commendation?

Comparisons are Foolish!  
2 Corinthians 10:12

1. “We’re in Different Categories.”
2. “I’d win...’er, I should win.”
3. “THEY are without understanding.”

Death by Comparison

**Who are you giving spiritual authority to?**

Proper Boasting #1  
God to you (through us)  
2 Corinthians 10:13-15a

God to others (through us)  
2 Corinthians 10:15b-16

Proper Boasting #2  
2 Corinthians 10:17-18

**Who are you giving spiritual authority to?**

Gospel Application –

Is comparison killing you?

Does someone have authority in your life that shouldn’t (e.g. tearing down and not building up)?

Do you need, all the more, to boast in the Lord - his life, death, and resurrection?

## 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

12Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding. 13But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. 14For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. 15aWe do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. 15bBut our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, 16so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another’s area of influence. 17“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” 18For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.



A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS



# BRIDEZILLA RETURNS

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IN COLOR



**AUTHORITY:**

**BRAKE**



Paul

**Paul**

**Corinthians**

**Paul**

**Corinthians**

**“Super  
Apostles”**

# Legitimacy of Spiritual Leadership

*There were no clear-cut biblical criteria to decide the spiritual legitimacy of Paul or his rivals, and the opponents and the Corinthians apparently reverted to the standards they were accustomed to from their culture. □□*

*They judged themselves and Paul according to their commanding presence (10:1, 10), concrete displays of power and authority (11:19–20), impressive speech (11:20–21), worthiness to accept full compensation (11:7–11), Jewish pedigree (11:21b–22), endurance of hardships (11:23–29), and mystical visions (12:1–6).*

*According to these criteria, they passed with flying colors and Paul failed.*

# Accusations against Paul:



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1. *Weak & Cowardly (10:1, 10)*
2. *Lacks Apostolic Power (12:12)*
3. *Doesn't take support (11:7-9)*
4. *Not Professional Communicator (11:6)*

Last week's Message:  
Spiritual Authority:  
*What it is and what it is not!*



# Authority?!



# Authority?!



# A look at authority in the life of Jesus

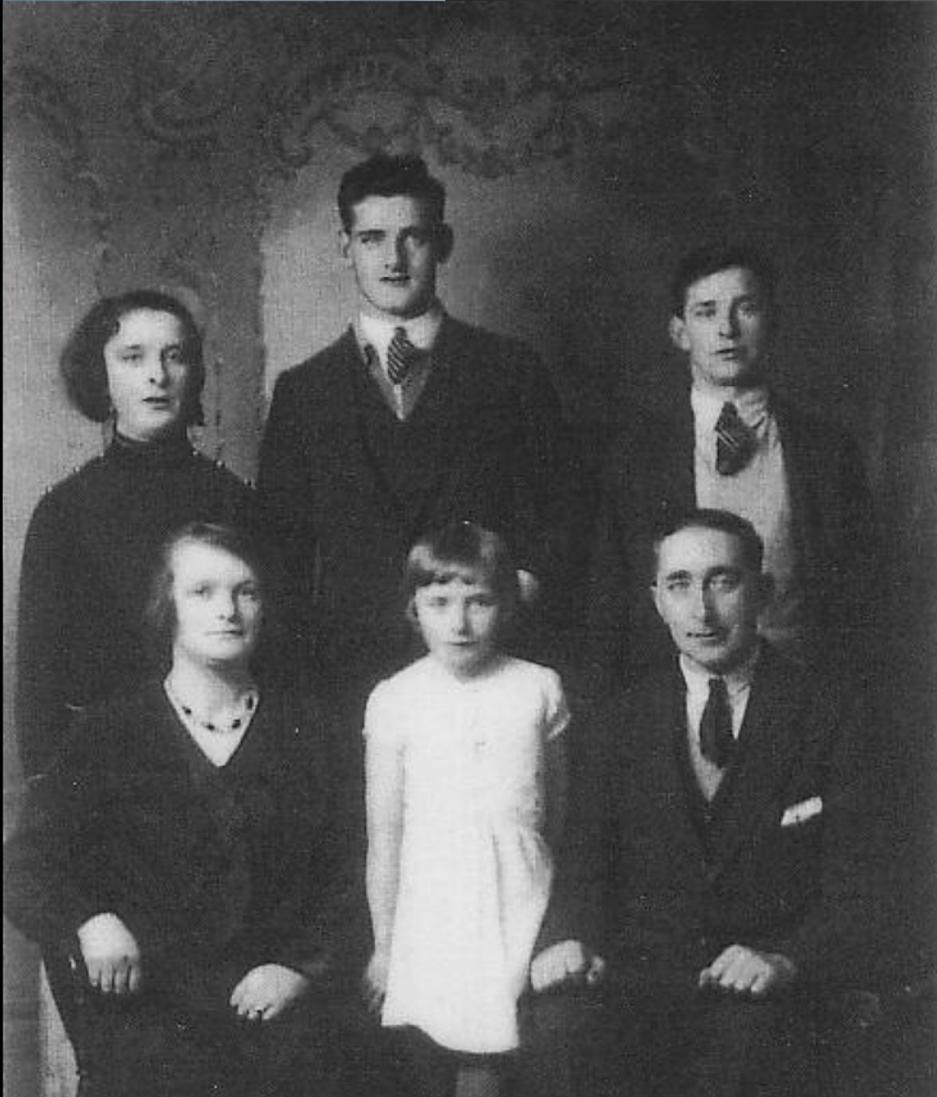
## Matthew 20:25-28

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

# Authority?!



# Authority?!



# Authority?!



# Authority?!

GET TO  
WORK

IT IS  
FINISHED



# Authority?!

GET TO WORK IT IS FINISHED





# Authority?!



G  
V

HED



# Authority?!

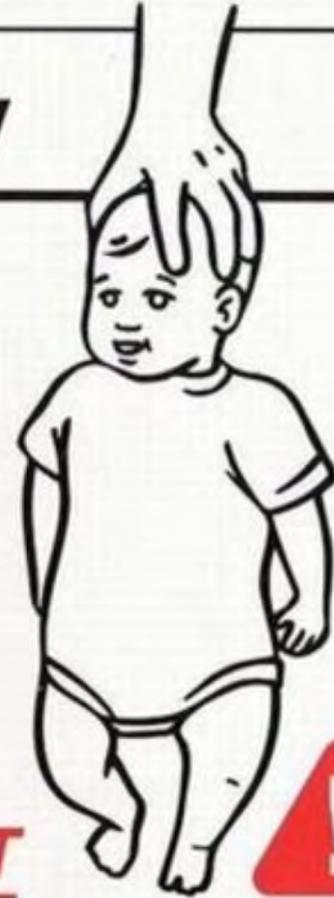
Instructions:

## Lifting Baby

DO



DON'T



G  
V

D

**There is Authority in the church**

# There is Authority in the church

## Hebrews 13:17

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

**Big Question:**  
**What is “spiritual authority?”**

# Definition:

**a state of control over something,  
*freedom of choice, right***

**right to control or command,  
*authority, absolute power, warrant***

Source - Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed.) (352-353). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

# A chief aim of spiritual authority

## 2 Corinthians 10:7-11

<sup>8</sup>For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it.

This week's Message:  
*What is a proper commendation?*



## **2 Corinthians 10:12-18**

**<sup>12</sup>Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.**

## 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

<sup>13</sup>But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. <sup>14</sup>For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. <sup>15a</sup>We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others.

## 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

<sup>15b</sup>But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, <sup>16</sup>so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence.

## **2 Corinthians 10:12-18**

<sup>17</sup>“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” <sup>18</sup>For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

# Comparisons are foolish!

## 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

<sup>12</sup>Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

# Comparisons are foolish!

## #1 – “We are in different categories.”

*In the ancient world “comparison” (sygkrisis) was a common “rhetorical exercise practiced in schools,” and comparing oneself with other teachers was a common tactic for a teacher to attract students and their fees.□*



David Garland

The New American Commentary: 2 Corinthians

# Comparisons are foolish!

#2 - "I'd win... 'er, I should win."

2 Corinthians 3:2

You yourselves are our letter of recommendation,  
written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.

# Comparisons are foolish!

#2 - "I'd win... 'er, I should win."

**2 Corinthians 3:2**

You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.

**2 Corinthians 12:11a**

I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you.

# Comparisons are foolish!

#3 – “THEY are without understanding.”

## 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

<sup>12</sup>Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

# Death by Comparison

# Death by Comparison

Chris E. said:

showed exactly what this post gets at- comparing ourselves should be avoided!

I've noticed I compare myself a lot more in areas of life that tend to impose on my sense of identity (often work or accomplishments for me, in high school it was sports). If we fight to see our identity resting solely on Christ, we can enjoy his blessings and other people in these areas so much more!

# Death by Comparison

Emily A. said:

I've actually started posting encouraging thoughts and words to people (including my husband) less on facebook since it's so public and do it more through text and e-mail (or facebook messaging)...or I just talk to the person. Only posting the great things on facebook can give a false sense of reality, and I don't want to portray perfection and complete happiness when, in fact, sometimes life is a huge struggle and friendships and marriage aren't perfect...

# Death by Comparison

GaoXue said:

crushing. I think comparing oneself to another will often feed on pride or take away confidence. In my own experience, I had to remove myself physically from the situation completely in order for my dependence on the Lord to become stronger. I didn't want to allow more events to occur that would further hinder myself from the reality of who I am in Christ. Instead of relying on my understanding, I had to erase those thoughts of inferiority to replace them with Truth. When I spend time with the Lord, I am able to stand firmly in the armor He designed for me. I am tempted to imitate evil, but I am able to combat these lies with the sword of the Spirit and Word of God. He is my Defender and my Righteousness.

# Death by Comparison

**Who are you giving spiritual authority  
to in your life?**

# Proper Boasting #1

## God to you (through us)

### 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

<sup>13</sup>But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. <sup>14</sup>For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. <sup>15a</sup>We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others.

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**Does this have *any* relevance  
for today?**





# Proper Boasting

## God to others (through us)

### 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

<sup>15b</sup>But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, <sup>16</sup>so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence.

# Proper Boasting #2

It's all about God!

## 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

<sup>17</sup>“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” <sup>18</sup>For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

## Jeremiah 9:23-24

<sup>23</sup>Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, <sup>24</sup>but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”



**Who are you giving spiritual authority  
to in your life?**

# Gospel Application

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