

LESSON 10
I DON'T MEAN TO BRAG, BUT . . .
2 CORINTHIANS 10:1–18



1 How do you compare to . . .

Winston Churchill? _____

Charles Manson? _____

Johann Sebastian Bach? _____

Rodney Dangerfield? _____

Albert Einstein? _____

2 Why do people compare themselves to others?



Read 2 Corinthians 10:1–18 and the following notes:

☐ 10:12, 13 ☐ 10:17, 18

3 What were the false teachers using as a basis for bragging (10:12)?

4 To what did Paul limit his boasting (10:13–17)?

5 What does it mean to “boast only of what the Lord has done” (10:17)?

6 What difference does it make whether we boast about ourselves or seek God’s praise (10:18)?

The false teachers assaulting the Corinthian church were boasters. They compared themselves with others, decided that they were better, and spread the news about their accomplishments. Paul had a different approach. He did not compare himself to others in an effort to demonstrate his superiority or talk down what they had done. He looked at his deeds only in light of what God had given him to do; God would judge them. And if Paul boasted, it would be only about the good he had seen God accomplish through him. In evaluating our accomplishments or our worth, it does not matter how we compare to others. All that matters is whether we have served God as he has called us. It is what God thinks of us—not how we feel or what others think—that counts.



7 Why do people boast?

8 What do people usually boast about?

9 What is the advantage of seeking God's approval rather than trying to do better than others?

10 How can a Christian boast "of what the Lord has done"?



11 When are you tempted to compare yourself to others?

12 What usually happens when you compare yourself to others?

13 What actions can help you focus on seeking God's approval rather than on comparing yourself to others?

14 How can you boast about what God has done through you?

15 What can you say (or not say) the next time you do something well?

16 When are you likely to compare your deeds to those of others in the coming week?



17 How can you head off the temptation to compare yourself to others?

A How were the false teachers at Corinth trying to discredit Paul (10:1)? What did Paul do about this (10:2–6)? How can you respond to personal attacks?

B What does it mean that “we don’t wage war with human plans and methods” (10:3)? What kinds of situations in your life could be seen as spiritual battles? Who are your opponents? How should you fight them?

C Why were the Corinthians being duped by the false teachers (10:7)? How could they have avoided being deceived (10:7–11)? How can you avoid being deceived by false teachers, leaders, or ideas?

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