

LESSON 13
LOOK WHO'S BOSS
2 CORINTHIANS 12:11—13:13



1 What might authority be to a . . .

dictator? _____

missionary? _____

billionaire? _____

coach? _____

congressperson? _____

construction foreman? _____

2 All of the people above have authority. What are the differences in how they use it?



Read 2 Corinthians 12:11—13:13 and the following notes:

☐ 12:11–15 ☐ 12:20, 21 ☐ 13:2 ☐ 13:5

3 Why should the Corinthians have accepted Paul's authority (12:11–13)?

4 How did Paul use his authority (12:19)?

5 What did Paul fear would happen when he visited the Corinthians a third time (12:20, 21)?

6 How did Paul plan to use his authority when he visited again (13:1–3, 10)?

Throughout 2 Corinthians Paul stressed that he had legitimate authority, given by Jesus Christ himself. Yet Paul did not use his authority for his own gain. He did not use it to increase his stature, reputation, or financial position. Rather, he used it to strengthen the Christians at Corinth. Whether a volunteer coach or a paid employee, a person having authority has a special responsibility—to be a source of blessing to those under him/her. Authority that serves and builds up others is the kind that has God's approval.



7 How can authority be used to build people up?

8 When is it good for those with authority to be strict with those under them?

9 What is the difference between legitimate and illegitimate uses of authority?



10 Over whom are you in authority right now?

11 How do you think others view your use of authority? Do they see you building people up or tearing people down?

12 What can you do to bring your authority under the guidance and control of God and to use it to build up others?

13 Name at least one area of your life where you have some authority over another person. How can you use that authority this week to build up that person?



14 For what person in authority can you pray this week?

A How can you know if your “faith is really genuine” (13:5)? What steps can you take to grow closer to God?

B What does it mean for Christians to “greet each other in Christian love” (13:12)? How might you reflect your commitment to Christ in the way you greet others?

C How did Paul close this letter of confrontation (13:13)? How can you show similar concern for the ones you love?

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