

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 13 -November 19, 2022

Strength in Weakness Boasting in Weakness 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Project Greatest Gift sign ups are underway. Sign up in the foyer.
- 2) Connections Class November 20. Sign up online.
- 3) Christmas Choir. Practice begins November 30. Sign up online or in the foyer.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Have you ever boasted about something that eventually turned out to be far less than you believed it to be? Describe your experience.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MAIN POINTS:

If we must boast, we will boast in the things that show our weakness for it is in our weakness that Jesus may increase in our lives.

DIGGING DEEPER

If we must boast...

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-21a.** Why does Paul describe what he is saying as foolish? According to Paul, when is boasting foolish? When is it acceptable to boast?
 - a. What are some downfalls of boasting "in the flesh"? Why are some so susceptible to boast in this way?
 - b. In verses 19-20, who are the fools Paul is referring to? What does he claim the Corinthians have suffered under the teaching of these "fools"?
 - c. Do you find Paul's use of sarcasm effective in these verses? Why or why not?

...we will boast in the things that show our weakness...

2. **Read 2 Corinthians 11:21b-29.** Paul now "speaking as a fool" boasts of his credentials. How does Paul compare himself to his opponents in verse 22? What is his purpose in doing this?
 - a. In verse 23, Paul begins a discourse on his trials. He begins by saying he is a better "servant of Christ" than his opponents. How do his weaknesses make him a better servant of Christ?

- b. Do you consider your weaknesses to make you a better servant of Christ? In what way?
- c. In verses 24-28, Paul lists the hardships he endured as he spread the Gospel throughout his travels. After reading these verses, describe your impressions of what you read.
- d. Paul describes these as weaknesses; from what source did he draw strength to endure these hardships?
- e. Has there been a time when your faith gave you the strength to endure hardship? Describe your experience.

...for it is in our weakness that Jesus may increase in our lives.

- 3. **Read 2 Corinthians 11:30-33.** How has Paul's boasting of his weaknesses given glory to God?
 - a. **Read Matthew 11:29-30.** This is Jesus' biographical description of Himself. The word "gentle" is also interpreted as "meek". If the hallmark of a true Christian is to imitate Jesus, how must we conduct ourselves?
 - b. Discuss the hardships Jesus endured during His ministry. Compare His hardships to what Paul endured.

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's study, what is important for you to remember and why?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

-
-
-
-
-