

## Divine Nature Leadership

There will always be those who question our service to God. (We either are innocent recipients and, in some cases, earn it.)

The apostle Paul was secure before God with his walk. (He wasn't perfect, but he was confident in his walk with God above questioning.) **How about each one of us?**

I think it would be hard for me to be a politician. I don't think that I would be able to be thrilled over having an over 50 percent support!

I have seen some churches that require an 100 percent vote for a pastor, and I know some guys that require it before they would take a church. (I think that there was 3 or 4 "no's "when I came here.) I think 100 is seemingly impossible anymore!

When you don't have pastors sent and or called from a church, but start it as a business, distrust would be understandable. **(In the bible churches give birth to churches, with people that are sent from a church to establish new churches.)** Paul was sent for that purpose. (Accountable)

We will see today, that after establishing the church at Corinth, there were Judaizers who had come in to the church and other false teaching infiltrators, who questioned Paul's authenticity.

There was slander from a faction. (Rather than defending himself, he defends what God works through him.) There really is a difference.

1. Leading by being led by God removes evil strongholds- (Paul seems to be a very ordinary man, not some winsome personality.) Even though when we see what his faithfulness to allow God to do with his life is incredible.

2 Corinthians 10:1–2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—

<sup>2</sup>I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.

- a.) He had to say some difficult things and was hopeful that when physically present, it would be better circumstances. (But he was not afraid to do what was necessary.)
  - He was in fact an apostle- authorized personally by the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, commissioned to lay the foundation of churches in their infancy. (This is no longer the case; the foundation has been laid.) **We grow birthed from other churches, perpetuity.**
- b.) One way that the devil tries to stop truth in churches is to attack the truth bearers.
- c.) Let's look at 2 Peter 1:3-7 for a moment.

2 Peter 1:3–7 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

<sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

<sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

<sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

d.) A godly leader can walk in divine power, if they develop correctly.

e.) He was not like those on social media that accuse from afar, with no real courage live.

## **2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

<sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

<sup>5</sup>We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

<sup>6</sup>being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

- Paul realizes that he still has flesh but fighting a spiritual war, which can only be done while living spiritually, or the divine nature.
- We miss out on the power of God in the flesh, as were his accusers.
- **Therefore, obliterating evil strongholds with the truth of God and His power!**
- **Living in obedience in the Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and washed clean in prayer!**

2. Spiritual leadership is different than that of the world system- (We are led by Christ/and we don't lead if we cannot follow!)

## **2 Corinthians 10:7–16 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup>Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.

<sup>8</sup>For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed.

<sup>9</sup>I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters.

<sup>10</sup>For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account."

<sup>11</sup>Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present.

<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.

<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>15</sup>We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. 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.

- a.) He served to build the church up, not for glory! (Glory belongs to God!)
- b.) Worldly people suppose worldly motives and expect worldly directives and operation.
- c.) Paul was not going to live by those standards. (Church is to be different.)
  - People in the flesh want to have corporate America church, or country club church.
- d.) **He started the church with truth, and his mission is to make disciples with truth.**

3. Unreal expectations for a church- ("But God is limitless", except for the limitations of flesh!)

a.) **Paul wasn't going to live under humanistic expectation, only by God-directives.**

2 Corinthians 10:16–18 (ESV)

<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.

<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.

b.) ("It isn't what it used to be", or 'will never be what we wanted it to be'.) What an incredible temptation of the flesh voices like this are!

c.) In reality, we teach what God wants, we live the way that God wants, and we operate within what God gives and allows. (If our mind is to serve, we can understand this!)

d.) Pharisees are excellent "scorekeepers". (By what standard though?)

- Consider being a part of a godly solution instead of a quitter or criticizer!
- Am I where God wants me to be? (This is where we give answer to God.)
- We serve God out of obedience to His Word and for His glorification.
- Not for prestige and recognition.
- We will be tested by naysayers, opposition, but we want the "God seal of approval" instead!
- God gifts us to serve in a church/what are the efforts he expects? / What are you doing to advance the Kingdom of God?
- Paul was willing to let his faithfulness do the talking.
- When we do, like Paul, there will be opposition.
- Will that change your approach away from what God tells you to do?
- **We are to live and be guided in our divine nature.** (Boast in the Lord!)