

Paul Boasts About His Sufferings - 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Topics: Confidence, Foolishness, Persecution, Pressure, Sin, Status, Suffering, Weaknesses, Wisdom, World

Open It

1. What kind of boasting do you dislike hearing?
- * 2. What are some of the playground boasts you remember hearing in grade school?
3. What is the most dramatic testimony you have ever heard?

Explore It

4. Why did Paul write, "Let no one take me for a fool"? (11:16)
5. What sort of boasting characterizes a fool? (11:17)
6. What kind of language did Paul use in this passage? (11:16-21)
7. What did the Corinthians put up with too easily? (11:19-20)
8. In what way did Paul act like a fool? (11:21)
- * 9. What qualifications did Paul have to justify his boasting? (11:22-28)
10. Why did Paul give so many examples of how he endured hardship for Christ? (11:22-28)
11. How did Paul's boasting change after his insistence that he had worked much harder than his opponents? (11:23)
- * 12. Why did Paul boast about his hardships? (11:24-26)
13. What kind of pressure did Paul experience? (11:28)
14. What was Paul's attitude toward Christians who were weak in their faith and led into sin? (11:29)
- * 15. How did Paul qualify his boasting? (11:30)

Get It

16. How do you think Christian pastors today should handle rivalry and competition in the church?
17. How do you feel when a fellow believer sins against you or a friend?
- * 18. What does it mean to boast in the Lord?
19. What should we boast about?
20. What should we avoid boasting about?
- * 21. What are the dangers of boasting?
22. How can our boasting be glorifying to the Lord?
23. Why did Paul criticize the practice of striving for status?
24. What do you think are some of the pressures your pastor feels in leading your congregation?
25. In what specific ways can you be supportive of your church leaders?
26. How should you respond to suffering or hardship that you experience for the sake of Christ?
27. How could you help Christians who are harassed for their faith?
28. How can you guard against leading another believer into sin?

Apply It

29. How could you encourage the leaders in your church who may be enduring hardship?
30. In what ways could you work this week to reduce rivalry and conflict among Christians?
- * 31. What boasts can you have handy for the next time you need to defend your credibility as a representative of Christ's message?