

# **Conquering Critics**

## **2 Corinthians 10:1-18**

**Sometimes we must meet criticism head-on**

### **A. Paul Answers His Critics' First Charge (10:1-7)**

#### **1. Their charge of being a coward (10:1-2)**

**a. Paul's Christ-like response**

**b. Paul's confidence against the charge**

#### **2. Paul's defense (10:3-7)**

**a. He did not war after the flesh (vv 3-5)**

**Ephesians 6:10-12, James 1:26**

**b. He did not want to be severe with all (v 6)**

**c. He cited his critics' bias (v 7)**

**What is your lens for looking at things?**

# **Conquering Critics**

## **2 Corinthians 10:1-18**

**Sometimes we must meet criticism head-on**

### **B. Paul Answers His Critics' Second Charge (10:8-18)**

**1. Their charge of being weak (10:8-10)**

**2. Paul's defense (10:11-18)**

**a. His critics would soon see his strength (10:11)**

**It is easy to criticize someone who is not around**

**b. His critics unwisely commend themselves (v 12)**

**To feel someone is weak means that you feel strong**

**c. The Corinthians' faith commended him (vv 13-17)**

**You can't argue successfully against facts**

**James 2:18**

**d. The Lord commended him (v 18)**

**1 John 4:18**

# **Avoiding False Teachers**

## **2 Corinthians 11:1-15**

**We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. 1 John 4:6**

# **I. The Fight (11:1-2)**

## **2 Corinthians 11:1-2**

**1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.**

**2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**

**A. The purity of the message matters**

**We must sincerely believe the truth**

**B. The purity of the church matters**

**Paul desired to present the church to Christ with purity**

## **1 John 4:1**

**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

## **2 Peter 2:1**

**But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**

## **II. The Problem (11:3-5)**

### **2 Corinthians 11:3-5**

**3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**

**4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.**

**5 For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.**

## **II. The Problem (11:3-5)**

- A. From the beginning there has been the opportunity to be led astray by temptation (v 3)**
  
- B. Three ways that people allow themselves to be deceived (v 4)**
  - 1. By another “Jesus”**
  - 2. By another spirit**
  - 3. By another “gospel”**
  
- C. Be careful of following an authority figure (v 5)**

### **III. Three Clues (11:6-15)**

#### **A. Truth is more important than style**

**2 Corinthians 11:6**

**But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge;  
but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you  
in all things.**

**Would we rather have message or method?**

**Would we rather have discernment over delivery?**

**Would we rather have power over persona?**



### **III. Three Clues (11:6-15)**

**B. Where is the focus, giving or getting?**

**2 Corinthians 11:7-12**

**7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?**

**8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.**

### **III. Three Clues (11:6-15)**

**B. Where is the focus, giving or getting?**

**2 Corinthians 11:7-12 - continued**

**9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.**

**10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.**

### **III. Three Clues (11:6-15)**

**B. Where is the focus, giving or getting?**

**2 Corinthians 11:7-12 - continued**

**11 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.**

**12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.**

### **III. Three Clues (11:6-15)**

#### **B. Where is the focus, giving or getting?**

- 1. Paul willingly sacrificed in order to preach the gospel to them free of charge (v 7)**
- 2. Other churches provided for his ministry (v 8)**
- 3. He went without so he could give (v 9)**
- 4. He had no regrets of the sacrifices he made (v 10)**
- 5. His sacrifice demonstrated his love for them (vv 11-12)**

### **III. Three Clues (11:6-15)**

**C. Evil often wins by twisting the truth just enough**

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

**13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.**

**14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

**15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.**

### **III. Three Clues (11:6-15)**

**C. Evil often wins by twisting the truth just enough**

**1. To make evil appealing**

**2. To cause doubt**

**3. To persuade those easily persuaded**

**4. To slowly but ultimately lead away from God**

## **Galatians 1:7-11**

**7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.**

**8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**

**9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**

**10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**

**11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.**

