



March 21, 2021

2 Corinthians 11: 16-33

1. It's safe to say that we all tend to boast about something. What in your life triggers boasting in you? What puffs you up? What part of yourself is getting in the way of your relationship with God?

2. Read verses 16-21a.
 - A. What were the super-apostles doing that was so harmful to the church in Corinth?

 - B. What can we learn from Paul's strategy to reach the Corinthians with a little boasting of his own?

3. Read verses 21b-22

A. In light of what we know about the gospel of Jesus Christ, why is boasting in our ancestry or in a particular race not important to God?

B. What is a positive next step for you to personally take a stand against hatred and the sin of racism?

4. Read verses 23-27.

A. With all of Paul's accomplishments why do you think Paul chooses this list of setbacks as something to boast about?

B. How do you reconcile suffering while serving Christ to be a sign of spiritual strength?

5. Read verses 28-29. What do these verses teach us about the look of sympathetic pastoral care?

6. Read verses 30-33.
 - A. Why would Paul pick an experience where he is lowered to safety in a basket to escape as something he sees as valuable to share with us?

 - B. Why are submission and humility keys to understanding true spiritual strength?

7. Discuss this quote: *“Our natural abilities must always come second to our submission to Christ.”* What did that look like for Paul? What does that look like for you?

8. What weakness (basket case experience) do you perceive in yourself that could become an opportunity for Christ to show his strength?

9. What in this passage challenges you to learn and grow as a follower of Christ?