

Sermon Notes | 2 Corinthians 10

Romans 13:1

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

What does authority need to be awesome?

- A. Authority needs gentleness and power (v. 1-6)
- B. Authority needs to be for the good others (v. 7-12)
- C. Authority needs to be for the good of the gospel (v.13-18)

A. Paul's Authority Includes Gentleness and Power (v.1-6)

1. Gentleness

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!— ²I 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**.

2. Power

³For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are **not of the flesh** but have **divine power** to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take **every thought captive to obey** Christ, ⁶being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

B. Paul's Authority was Used for their Good! (v.7-12)

...⁸For 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. ⁹I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. ¹²Not 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**.

C. Paul's Authority was Used for the Good of the Gospel. (v.13-18)

¹³But 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**.¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵We 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, ¹⁶so that we may **preach the gospel in lands beyond** you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. ¹⁷"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." ¹⁸For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Big Idea: You need the authority of Jesus in your life.

Discussion Questions | 2 Corinthians 10

Read 2 Corinthians 10:1–6

- Who is an authority figure who embodies both gentleness and power?
- Which of those two qualities do you struggle with more?
- How can you better engage in the battle of the mind?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:7–12

- How have you seen authority be good for you or someone else?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:13–18

- What does this passage say about Paul's goals for his authority?
- How do you need to let Jesus have authority over you?