

PART 10

 I. I. Paul’s Response to His Opponents (vv. 1-6)

 A. Not in ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 1. instead of commanding, he pleads in meekness and gentleness

 a. with great emphasis, he stresses that he himself is pleading with them by the meekness

 and gentleness of Christ

 2. some in Corinth misread Paul’s humility in person as weakness, and that only when absent

 was he bold

 a. Paul is hopeful that it not be necessary for him to use the confident boldness he has,

 to use against those who oppose him

 3. authority is not given for personal gain, neither is it given to not be utilized

 B. Authority must be used for the purposes it was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 1. while walking in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh

 a. we have been granted access to supernatural power, and this power is given to destroy

 the works of the devil, not the ongoing work of the Lord

 i. the people that are opposing Paul may very well be “works in progress”, and as such

 Paul is acting with sensitivity to what God may be doing in them

 2. the weapons we use are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 a. they are capable of

 i. pulling down strongholds

 ii. defeating arguments and anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God

 iii. bringing our thought life into captivity to obedience to Christ

 iv. punishing disobedience

 b. because of the nature of the power that we have been given, we must walk in a healthy

 respect for it

II. Paul’s Counsel to the Church (vv. 7-18)

 A. Do not judge based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 1. no matter how it might appear, Paul is the commissioned servant of Christ

 a. while not wishing the resort to such “boasting”, he does not diminish the reality that to

 oppose him without grounds, is to oppose the work of God

 i. just as Paul did not wish to hinder the work of the Lord, he is not setting up a double

 standard for those who are under authority

 b. if it were necessary to boast about the authority the Lord gave him, Paul would not be

 ashamed to do so

 2. there were some in Corinth who saw Paul as hiding behind his letters

 a. this is a natural response of the flesh to being confronted

 i. Paul had challenged many in the church to do better, and some had responded with

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 B. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 1. Paul was prepared to be in person what he was in his letters

 a. although Paul had expressed a desire to not have to exercise his authority to punish, and

 held out hope that repentance would be engaged in prior to his visit, he makes it clear

 that what he opposed in his letters, would be opposed in person, if necessary

 2. we should not confuse a graduated response with weakness

 a. Paul does not want to overuse authority, but is not willing to underuse it either

 C. Do not boast of your own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 1. Paul considered it unwise to compare himself with those who measured themselves by

 others around them

 a. if we must “boast”, it should only be in that area God had chosen for us

 i. in Paul’s case this included the Corinthians themselves

 b. it is foolish to conflate worldly success with spiritual obedience

 i. just as Paul did not boast about the work of others (as if it were his own), he wants the

 Corinthians to understand that each person’s focus should be on accomplishing God’s

 specific purpose for their lives, not on critiquing the work of others, or on inflating

 their own accomplishments in order to appear to have fulfilled God’s will

 2. fruitful ministry produces \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 a. just as healthy trees produce not only fruit, but also more trees, so a church that is

 flowing in the will of God will experience more than numerical growth

 3. ultimately, it is the one whom the Lord commends who is approved

 a. both those who compare and those who criticize are attempting to avoid God’s verdict