



7 You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.

This is not a question it's a statement.

John 7:24 *“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”*

How would someone claim a position over the Corinthians or any group of believers?

1. They would claim exclusive relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. They would deny Paul had the same relationship and therefore deny his authority and his teaching.
3. They would reduce Paul to a self-made apostle.

7 Is it outward appearances you look to? If any man is confident as regards himself that he specially belongs to Christ, let him consider again and reflect that just as he belongs to Christ, so also do we. (WEY)

A certain man appears to have gained attention, who had much more both from nature and from circumstances than the apostle; and the saints at Corinth were moved by this. Bellett

Their Incorrect Premise

- **Visually** (blepo) you can tell if a person is a Christian.
- One is probably not a Christian if he has a deformity, disfigurement, or affliction.

Paul's Correction

- If you are persuaded (totally confident) you are of Christ,
 - Then you **reckon** (logizomai) again in yourself, that as you are of Christ – so are others, independent of their appearance or affliction in the flesh.

H. Molloy

⁸ I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority. NLT2

Paul Glories: In His Authority - **Why?** Because he is actually glorying in the Lord. 2 Cor.10:7

Source of Authority:

Given by The Lord _____ “Given” didomi: to commit or trust to the charge or care of someone

Apostleship/Authority to Paul

Ephesians 4:11 (NASB) ¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

8 I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority. NLT2

Philippians 1:20 (WEY)

20 in fulfilment of my eager expectation and hope that I shall never have reason to feel ashamed, but that by my perfect freedom of speech Christ will be glorified in me, now as always, either by my life or by my death.

1 John 2:28 (NKJV)

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Question : Has God given us authority (or power) that we can glory in & never be put to shame ?



His Life & Ministry Through Us Results from Walking in the Spirit & Edifies Believers - 2Cor 10:7-12

Your Authority (or Power)

John 1:12 (KJV)

But as many as received him, to them gave he **authority** to become the sons of God,

Romans 1:16 (KJV)

For I am not **ashamed** of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power** of God unto salvation

Romans 15:13 (KJV)

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the **power** of the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (KJV)

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the **power** may be of God, and not of us.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV)

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the **power** of Christ may rest upon me.

Ephesians 1:19 (KJV)

And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his **power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty **power**,

Philippians 3:10 (KJV)

That I may know him, and the **power** of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

~~⁹ for I do not wish to seem as if I would **terrify you** by my letters. (NASB)~~

~~⁹ Let it not seem as if I wanted **to frighten you** by my letters. (WEY)~~

False Charges against Paul

1. Paul was out to terrify the Corinthians because his letters were: “TOO bold”– They frighten
2. Accusations of improper use of authority for *the purpose of destroying you. To terrify*
3. That his word, written or spoken, along with his speaking is of no value so it cannot be regarded as God’s word.
4. Not only that, his physical presence is weak, sickly.
5. Who Does he think he is speaking boldly and confidently?”
 1. Authority can be misused.
 2. Not used to destroy like governments can do: USSR, China, Germany.

¹⁰ For they (he) say, "His letters are weighty and **strong**, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible." (NASB)

Nothing was farther from him than the fleshly, vacillating, and tortuous policy they attributed to him. But these are the common tactics of the enemy.

weighty – heavy, burdensome, **o**ppressive (figuratively)
("Paul is weighing you down with His heavy words of correction because he wants to keep his position of authority over you.")

“powerful / strong” – firm, sure, severe (Where does Paul get the right to speak to you in this way?)

¹¹ Let such a person **consider** this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when **present**.

Such a person is the false apostle and his followers who were critics of Paul and his ministry.

Consider – logizomai – to reckon or conclude. More than think or believe. Romans 6:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *Likewise you also, **reckon** yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

“Well,” he says, ¹¹“wait until I get there, and see.”

12 For we are not bold to **class** or **compare ourselves** with some of those who **commend themselves**; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

We dare not, we are not bold enough to **classify** or **count myself** among them.

classify Make ourselves or judge ourselves with you.

We don't **compare ourselves** - to judge one thing with another with these false apostles.

With who?

Commending to meet with approval from others in their group.

12 For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they *measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves*, they are without understanding.

In speaking thus of his authority, Paul was not for one moment entering into a kind of competition with those who opposed him. They were anxious to commend themselves, and so get a footing with the Corinthians; and in doing this a spirit of competition got among them, and they began "*measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves,*" which was a very unwise proceeding.

In so doing they got no higher than themselves. It was all self. One man might be distinguished by this feature, another by that; but in comparing themselves with one another they never rose up to God, and to the measure which He had ordained. Ironside