



Today's Message

Date: August 11, 2018
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Lordship, Leadership, and Love*

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:7–11 (ESV)

⁷Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. 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. ¹⁰For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." ¹¹Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present.

Introduction: Paul launched a defense of his authority in the church in the tenth chapter of 2 Corinthians. In the first six verses, he revealed the true nature and power of his authority. In the today's sermon text, Paul explained that the Lord gave him this authority and he exercised it through his perceived weakness. The apostle did not conform to worldly patterns of leadership or submit to the expectations of worldly people. He exercised true authority with two clear complementary goals in mind: He sought to please Christ, his Lord, and he sought to love the church, Christ's people.

Today's take-home truth: The Lord gives leaders to his church; first apostles and then pastors.

I. Leaders the Lord gives to his church do not “walk according to the flesh” (cf. 10:2). 7

- A. They cannot be evaluated by worldly standards.
- B. They cannot be self-appointed.

II. Leaders the Lord gives to his church lead selflessly. 8

- A. They exercise authority that is derivative, not intrinsic.
- B. They build up the church rather than demolish it.
- C. They faithfully discharge divine responsibility without regard for public opinion.

III. Leaders the Lord gives to his church speak the truth. 9-11

- A. They speak the truth in love. 9
- B. They speak the truth with simple clarity. 10
- C. They speak the truth and obey it. 11

Implications for the church today: