

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 “May Only The Lord Commend Us”

- **Resumes**
 - Everyone seems to have one
 - Everyone eventually seems to need one
- The best jobs are won on the result of a great resume and great commendations or references.
- **“Compensation based upon experience”**
 - Sales jobs are often given to those that can best sell themselves to the employers.

7 Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he *is* Christ's, even so we *are* Christ's.

- **Outward appearances can be deceiving**
 - A sign on a department store dressing room mirror:
"Objects in mirror may appear bigger than they actually are."
-- Hope Health Letter (12/95). Leadership, Vol. 17, no. 2.
 - According to University of North Texas Assistant Professor of Merchandising Tammy Kinley, **size doesn't matter. Women's pants size**, that is!
In **fall 2001** Kinley began studying the differences between the labeled sizes and actual measurements of women's pants. She found that pants were typically much larger than their labels indicated.
 - Kinley: "Well, we measure over a thousand pairs of pants. We measure the closed waist, we measured the inseams and we measured the crotch seam, which was from the center front waistband to the center back waist band. And we found that there was a great deal of discrepancy within size categories. We measured sizes 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14, women's pants. We made sure all of them were regular length, no tall, no petites, and all of them fit the natural waist. And the range in measurements within size categories was significant for every single size category."
 - This **"vanity sizing"** makes it difficult for women to shop for pants. Kinley suggests that designers continue this practice because it creates customer loyalty, makes their patrons feel better and impacts retailer sales. And **the more expensive the pants, the more suspicious the label.**
 - Kinley: **"We analyzed the data according to price and found that expensive pants, which I determined were those \$100 or above, were significantly larger on all but one dimension than inexpensive pants,** and in this study inexpensive pants were those that cost \$50 or less."
- It is so easy to be compelled by what the senses dictate rather than what Faith dictates.
2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.
- **Samuel made that mistake**
1 Samuel 16:4-7
4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town

trembled at his coming, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

5 And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before Him!”

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD* does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

- Paul knew they looked down on him because of his appearance.
 - V10 – “bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible”
 - We **don’t** take pride in our weak appearance or bad speech
 - We **do** take pride in what God can do through such a vessel as us.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 **that no flesh should glory in His presence.**

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

31 **that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”**

8 For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed—

9 lest I seem to terrify you by letters.

10 “For *his* letters,” they say, “*are* weighty and powerful, but *his* bodily presence is weak, and *his* speech contemptible.”

- Remember Paul’s concern for them

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.

9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing of yourselves, *what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

- **Weighty** (βαρεῖται). In classical Greek, besides the physical sense of *heavy*, the word very generally implies something *painful* or *oppressive*. As applied to persons, *severe*, *stern*. In later Greek it has sometimes the meaning of *grave* or

dignified, and by the later Greek rhetoricians it was applied to oratory, in the sense of *impressive*, as here. ¹

- “Bodily presence”
 - A bronze medal discovered in the cemetery of St. Domitilla at Rome, and ascribed to the first or second century, represents the apostle with a bald, round, well-developed head; rather long, curling beard; high forehead; prominent nose; and open, staring eye. ²
 - An ivory diptych of the fourth century, reproduced in Mr. Lewin’s “Life of Paul,” contains two portraits. In the one he is sitting in an official chair, with uplifted hand and two fingers raised, apparently in the act of ordination. The face is oval, the beard long and pointed, the moustache full, the forehead high, the head bald, and the eyes small and weak. The other portrait represents him in the act of throwing off the viper. A forgery of the fourth century, under the name of Lucian, alludes to him as “the bald-headed, hooknosed Galilean.” In the “Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles” mention is made of one Dioscorus, the bald shipmaster, who followed Paul to Rome, and was mistaken for him and beheaded in his stead. In the “Acts of Paul and Thekla,” a third-century romance, he is described as “short, bald, bowlegged, with meeting eyebrows, hook-nosed, full of grace.” John of Antioch, in the sixth century, says that he was round-shouldered, with aquiline nose, greyish eyes, meeting eyebrows, and ample beard.* ³

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

- Appearance is no dictation of heart
 - Are Holy Spirit power and Humility opposed to each other?
 - Are meekness and strength opposed to each other?
 - Are calmness, peace and contentment opposed to prayerful urgency?
- “Can’t read a book by its cover”

12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

- Why waste time comparing yourselves to those around you
- Its not wise!
 - If you always compare yourselves to the carnal, cold Christians you always hang around you will always feel mature and spiritual.
 - Always hang around those more mature, more faith driven, more prayer covered than you.

¹Vincent, M. R. (2002). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 3, Page 1-341). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

²Vincent, M. R. (2002). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 3, Page 1-342). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

* See Mrs. Jameson’s “Sacred and Legendary Art,” vol. i.; and Northcote and Brownlow’s “Roma Sotteranea.” A summary is given by Farrar.

³Vincent, M. R. (2002). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 3, Page 1-342). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

13 We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.

14 For we are not overextending ourselves (as though *our authority* did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ;

15 not boasting of things beyond measure, *that is*, in other men's labors, but having hope, *that as* your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere,

16 to preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.

17 But *"he who glories, let him glory in the LORD."*

18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

- Who then shall we glory in?
- Who writes the best resume for us?
- What man do we need to impress?
- Let the Lord speak for you and let our hearts show who we are.