

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: November 3, 2019
2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10

1. What is Paul saying in 11:16-21?
 - a. He is not a fool.
 - b. If he was a fool, they would put up with his antics better...so maybe just put up with me like you would a fool.
 - c. It is foolish to boast in your own abilities as the world does...but why does the boasting that Paul does in Christ bother the church more than the boasting of arrogant fools who boast in themselves?
 - d. He seems to sarcastically suggest that they consider themselves smarter or wiser than everyone else...including him, which is why they question him so much.
 - e. He points out that they have put up with the arrogant who take advantage of them and suggests that Paul and his companions were not "strong enough" or "confident enough" in themselves to do that to the church.

2. What does Paul say about himself in verses 11:21b-29?
 - a. He is a Hebrew and an Israelite, if that is something to be proud of.
 - b. He is a servant of Christ.
 - c. He has worked harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death more, etc...if asceticism and suffering is what we are proud of.
 - d. He is stressed or pressured daily by his concern for the church.

3. What is Paul saying in verse 30? _____

4. What is Paul doing in verses 12:1-5?
 - a. It sounds like he started to talk crazy, now.
 - b. He is talking about the spiritual gifts or experiences that he could boast about, if that was to his credit.

5. What does verse 12:6 mean? _____

6. What are we to make of all of Paul's boasts in this text?
 - a. He is one arrogant dude.
 - b. He is really frustrated that the church is so easily influenced by supposed leaders who seem all about bragging about their qualifications.
 - c. He is pointing out how useless it is to brag about all of these things...and at the same time noting how different this is than anything he has ever wrote about. It was not his pattern to boast about these sorts of things.

7. What does Paul say in verse 12:7 has helped Paul not to become conceited? _____

8. Is it possible that you have such thorn in your life, for the same reason? _____

9. How did God respond to Paul when he asked for God to take it from him, according to verses 12:8-10? _____

10. Have you come to the same attitude as Paul in 12:10? _____