

Wesley Wright

Lighthouse Bible Church

Sunday, July 26, 2026

2 Corinthians 10:7-11

Title: The One and Only

What we'll hear today:

- Who is an apostle?
- What does edification have to do with the apostleship?
- How should we judge rightly?

Remember how we discussed the knowledge of God and the obedience of Christ last week? Remember how we discussed how unbelievers sought to undermine the work of Paul?

**Paul makes a simple appeal in 2
Corinthians 10:7 — for anyone who
belongs to Christ, they should also
determine that Paul belongs to Christ.**

**Why does Paul make this point? He's up
against readers' knowledge of false
apostles and sought to distinguish
himself from them. You should make the
same distinction.**

**Consider the qualifications of an apostle
as the Bible puts them. They were
contemporaries of Christ: Matthew
10:1-6, Luke 9:1-5**

**Paul was an apostle, but there were
others who claimed to be apostles and
were not: 2 Corinthians 11:12-15**

The word *apostolos* means one who is sent. There are no apostles today, except one, our true Apostle: Hebrews 3:1-6

All of the false apostles point to themselves. Paul and the others pointed to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

**Don't boast in men: 1 Corinthians
3:18-23**

**Now that we've established the
parameters of the apostleship, Paul also
refers to certain authority that he and
the other apostles had in 2 Corinthians
10:8-9.**

**The authority that the apostles have,
Paul says, is for edification or building
up. False apostles, by comparison, seek
to destroy and cause schisms and other
conflicts.**

**Remember that the true apostles existed
more generally to equip saints for
service and the building up (!) or
edification of the body of Christ:
Ephesians 4:10-12**

**Jesus Christ made it clear what the fate
of apostles would be, and it was in
some ways a frightful one: Luke
11:42-53**

2 Corinthians 10:9-11 refers to the idea that Paul wrote powerfully, but was comparatively docile in person. That took his meekness, again, as weakness.

**Remember this same concept came up
at the beginning of this chapter and
elsewhere: 2 Corinthians 10:1-2**

**Remember that Jesus Christ was a
gentle, humble man: Matthew 11:25-30**

**In short, Paul restrained himself for
their sake, but they mistook his actions
for timidity and weakness. Don't judge
simply according to outward
appearance.**

**Judge instead according to righteous
judgement: John 7:16-29, John 8:12-18**

**Paul, a apostle of Jesus Christ, pointed
people to Christ, the Apostle of our
faith. There no other ones today —
beware of false apostles. Know their
motives, then mark and avoid them.**

Paul and the others had a great deal of authority, but they restrained themselves. The detractors judged wrongly — when you judge, judge rightly but not simply according to outward appearance.

**Next week, we'll address why judging
rightly is important in this context.
There's a substantial between these men
and those who commend themselves.
They boasted, and you can boast too,
but there's a caveat.**