

2 Corinthians 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.

Analysis

Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? (τὰ κατὰ πρόσωπον βλέπετε)—Paul challenges superficial evaluation of ministry. Kata prosōpon (κατὰ πρόσωπον, "according to face/appearance") critiques judging by external credentials, rhetorical polish, or physical presence rather than spiritual fruit and divine appointment. The Corinthians valued what impresses the eye; God examines the heart (1 Sam 16:7).

If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's—Paul doesn't deny his opponents belong to Christ but asserts equal (actually superior) apostolic credentials. Pepoithen (πέποιθεν, "trust/confidence") appears repeatedly in chapters 10-13, contrasting self-confidence with God-dependence. Paul's logic: if belonging to Christ validates ministry, then Paul—whose conversion and apostolic commission are unquestionable—has equal or greater legitimacy.

Historical Context

Ancient Corinth valued external appearance, social status, and rhetorical impressiveness. Letters of recommendation, family pedigree, and association with influential teachers established credibility. Paul rejected these markers, insisting

divine calling and Spirit-empowered fruit validate ministry, not worldly credentials. His opponents likely boasted impressive human qualifications Paul deliberately lacked.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What external qualifications—education, eloquence, personality, success—do you use to evaluate spiritual leaders instead of examining their Christ-conformity and spiritual fruit?
2. How does judging ministry by 'outward appearance' perpetuate worldly values in the church?
3. When have you mistaken someone's polished presentation for spiritual authority, or dismissed someone's genuine calling due to unimpressive credentials?

Interlinear Text

Τὰ κατὰ πρόσωπον βλέπετε εἷ τις πέποιθεν
G3588 things after G2596 the outward appearance G4383 Do ye look on G991 G1487 G5100 trust G3982

ἑαυτοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶναι τοῦτο λογιζέσθω πάλιν ἀφ'
himself G1438 Christ's G5547 that he is G1511 this G5124 let him G3049 again G3825 of G575

ἑαυτοῦ ὅτι καθὼς αὐτὸς Χριστοῦ οὕτως καὶ ἡμεῖς
himself G1438 that G3754 as G2531 he G846 Christ's G5547 so G3779 even G2532 are we G2249

Χριστοῦ
Christ's G5547

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 14:37 (Parallel theme): If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:12 (Parallel theme): For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

John 7:24 (Parallel theme): Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

2 Corinthians 11:23 (References Christ): Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

1 John 4:6 (Parallel theme): We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

1 Corinthians 9:1 (References Christ): Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

1 Corinthians 3:23 (References Christ): And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

1 Corinthians 1:12 (References Christ): Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:1 (References Christ): Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

Galatians 3:29 (References Christ): And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

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