



LIVING IN A WORLD OF CRITICS

KEEPING YOUR COOL IN A COMPARISON CULTURE
2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-12

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • March 28 & 29, 2026 • 2 Corinthians, week 43 • Msg. 26-11

1. Expect _____ (v.7)

2. Expect _____ (vv.8-11)

3. Refuse _____ (v.12)

2 Cor. 10:7 Look 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. 8 For 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. 9 I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. 10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." 11 Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. 12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.
(ESV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Samuel 16:7**. Where are you most tempted to evaluate people based on appearance, style, or status instead of spiritual character and standing in Christ?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 4:12-13**. How would you encourage a young Christian to stay faithful when their efforts to do what is right are misunderstood or criticized?
3. Read **Luke 18:11-12**. What do you think drives the temptation to measure ourselves against others, and how does that distort our thinking? What steps can you take to eliminate this pattern of thinking?
4. Read **1 Corinthians 1:25-31**. How does remembering that God often chooses the "weak" and "lowly," like David the shepherd, help protect us from pride and comparison?
5. Read **Isaiah 53:2-3**. How should these prophecies shape the way we understand people's responses to Christ at his first coming and to the gospel today?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 24-17 – **The Power of Integrity**
Msg. 22-12 – **Aiming for "Well Done"**
Msg. 14-05 – **The Practical Value of Integrity**
Msg. 15-32 – **The Fear of Being Fake**
Msg. 11-35 – **Keeping a Clear Conscience**
Msg. 08-16 – **Why It's All Worth It**
Msg. 25-24 – **Investing in Our Post-Resurrection Life**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

March 29th *Josh. 23-24 & Lk. 6:27-49*
March 30th *Judg. 1-2 & Lk. 7:1-30*
March 31st *Judg. 3-5 & Lk. 7:31-50*
April 1st *Judg. 6-7 & Lk. 8:1-21*
April 2nd *Judg. 8-9 & Lk. 8:22-56*
April 3rd *Judg. 10-11 & Lk. 9:1-36*
April 4th *Judg. 12-14 & Lk. 9:37-62*
April 5th *Judg. 15-17 & Lk. 10:1-24*

Here are some books that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Dillehay, Tilly. **Seeing Green: Don't Let Envy Color Your Joy**. Harvest House, 2018.
Elliott, Elisabeth. **The Path of Loneliness: Finding Your Way through the Wilderness to God**. Revell, 1988.
Fabarez, Mike. **Envy: A Big Problem You Didn't Know You Had**. Moody Publishers, 2023.
Frank, Arnold L. **The Fear of God: A Forgotten Doctrine**. Nordskog Publishing, 2008.
Hitchcock, Mark. **Heavenly Rewards: Living with Eternity in Sight**. Harvest House, 2019.
Mack, Wayne A. **Humility: The Forgotten Virtue**. P & R Publishing, 2005.
MacArthur, John. **The Power of Integrity: Building a Life Without Compromise**. Crossway, 1997.
Morgan, Christopher W. **Suffering and the Goodness of God**. Crossway, 2008.
Piper, John. **A Godward Life: Savoring the Supremacy of God in All of Life**. Multnomah Press, 2009.
Piper, John, and Justin Taylor, eds. **Suffering and the Sovereignty of God**. Crossway, 2006.
Smith, William P. **How to Love Difficult People: Receiving and Sharing God's Mercy**. New Growth Press, 2008.
Swindoll, Charles R. **Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness**. Thomas Nelson, 1998.
Wiersbe, Warren. **The Integrity Crisis**. Oliver-Nelson Books, 1988.