

# The Minister: His Boast and Costly Labours

## 2 Corinthians 11:16–33

### 1 *The minister appeals to be received and heard*

- a. He needs to boast a little
- b. His boasting is not the way the Lord talked
- c. His critics and the false teachers are “talking big”
- d. The church is receiving them
- e. The church is being deceived
- f. The need now is for the minister, Paul, to be strong in boasting

16 I repeat:

Let no one take me for a fool.  
But if you do,  
then receive me just as you would a fool,  
so that I may do a little boasting.

17 In this self-confident boasting

I am not talking as the Lord would,  
but as a fool.

18 Since many are boasting

in the way the world does,  
I too will boast.

19 You gladly put up with fools

since you are so wise!

20 In fact,

you even put up with anyone who enslaves you  
or exploits you  
or takes advantage of you  
or pushes himself forward  
or slaps you in the face.

21 To my shame I admit

that we were too weak for that!  
What anyone else dares to boast about —  
I am speaking as a fool —  
I also dare to boast about.

### 2 *The minister stands equal in heritage*

22 Are they Hebrews? So am I.

Are they Israelites? So am I.

Are they Abraham’s descendants? So am I.

### 3 *The minister must be more than a minister*

- a. The minister labours and suffers more than most
- b. The minister must remain faithful while suffering for Christ

23 Are they servants of Christ?

(I am out of my mind to talk like this.)

I am more.

I have worked much harder,  
been in prison more frequently,  
been flogged more severely,  
and been exposed to death again and again.

24 Five times I received from the Jews

the forty lashes minus one.

<p>c. The minister must boast only in his weaknesses</p> <p>d. The minister must not exaggerate or lie about his sufferings</p> <p><b>4 <i>The minister was not guilty of cowardice; he was only escaping death</i></b></p>	<p>25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was ship-wrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,</p> <p>26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.</p> <p>27 I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.</p> <p>28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.</p> <p>29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?</p> <p>30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.</p> <p>31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying.</p> <p>32 In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me.</p> <p>33 But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.</p>
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