Make - **wk 12 - That’ll Leave a Mark**

**Going from A to C - What happens on the way shapes us… makes us…**

**2 Cor - the messy process of becoming more like Christ. A letter about Christians in ancient “Las Vegas” – trying to grow.**

**Previously on, 2 Corinthians - dealing with a church he planted that was struggling with division, sin, and shifty leaders.**

**So far, ongoing concerns (though less than the last letter): hope in the midst of trials and grief, dealing with disappointment, forgiveness, unity, maintaining goldy relationships, generosity, and now some personal “housekeeping” – Knock, knock – Housekeeping.**

**Before we dive into today’s section, I want to read something he wrote to them a couple years earlier – 1 Cor 4:14 I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, (Gk – root word is 10,000) you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me.**

**Paul planted the church and was a spiritual father. Then some came in and tried to tear down what he had established. He is frustrated and responding the best he knows how… truthfully.**

**What a Healthy Leader Looks Like**

**What to look for and what to strive for**

**While he is dealing with an “in-house” issue, we learn about being a good leader, friend, and spiritual parent.**

**A complete change in tone - 2 Corinthians 10:1** **I, Paul, myself entreat you, (urge, plead, and encourage you) by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away! (In my letters, I am confrontational and corrective – some thought his bark -the letters- was bigger than his bite in person) 2 I beg of you that when I am present (remember he says he is headed to see them) I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.**

**I want this dealt with before I get there. I don’t want to get harsh with those accusing us of being of the flesh and not of God. Can you imagine people saying that?**

**1. Healthy leaders respond with and model meekness**

**We treat people diff. Paul handled criticism with grace.**

**Some make loud threats and get forceful - that is how the world might do it - but I do not want to be like that.**

**Matthew 5:5 - “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

**Psalm 37:11 - But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.**

**Titus 3:2 - To speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.**

**James 3:13 - Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.**

**Ps 25:9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.**

**Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.**

**Meekness is not weakness. We are to be humble and bold – strength under control. We are not prone to lose our temper and force our way.**

**Ephesians 4:2 With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love…**

**\* Humility is spoken often in the scriptures – the opposite is pride.**

**Mom, dad, friend, boss – at work, with family – walk in humility.**

**2 Cor 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. (For though we live in this world, we do not wage war as the world does) 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh (not of this world – motivated by self, positive affirmation, eloquence, or manipulation) but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (spiritual weapons – KJV, “mighty in God” to bring down spiritual strongholds. Eph 6 lists some spiritual weapons)**

**2. Healthy leaders fight on their knees**

**We war differently. We Pray – we fight on our knees, not with people**

**Those we love are under attack - pray! Spiritual first responders!**

**We pray before we accuse. We pray before we confront. We pray when chaos and trials unfold. For those we love and our enemies.**

**10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.**

**Once you’re ready to listen - discipline will be followed thru.**

**1 Cor 5 – Paul said of the one bringing division and spreading reckless behavior, release them to Satan, so that they may be restored.**

**3. Healthy leaders follow through on discipline**

**We are not only to pray about it – but we are to do something about it.**

**Our issues with people are actually spiritual strongholds of those who are out of line with God’s word.**

**Manifested, as Paul says in the church, outwardly with – arguments, lofty opinions, and disobedience.**

**In discipline (which is part of discipleship), we are to – confront false perceptions, confront arrogance and pride, and confront rebellious attitudes in the body of Christ. They are to be confronted with the Word of Christ.**

**Healthy leaders don’t just leave it to others but care enough to hold others accountable for their actions (with gentleness and humility). Consistency says you love them.**

**Take an active role in discipline – w/ grace, humility, and boldness. Notice a change of heart is needed to work first (that part happens through prayer)**

**\*\* On a practical level – this verse speaks of our prayer life and our need to align our own thoughts with the Word of God.**

**We are to “take our thoughts captive” = make them submit to Christ. The battle in our mind – knowing the Word of God and taking captive our thoughts that oppose it.**

**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.**

**They were comparing Paul to those other leaders.**

**His appearance, especially after all he had gone through.**

**I might not look like much – but I am Christ’s!**

**1 Sam 16:7 - But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”**

**God does not pick by outward appearance – but inside.**

**2 Cor 10:8 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. (I shouldn't have to tell you of the Lord’s work in us to you – you should know)**

**9 I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. (His intense letters for fuel for his haters) 10 For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.” (NIV - “His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.” KJV - “his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.”)**

**This is what they were saying about Paul in his absence.**

**4. Healthy leaders are measured by spiritual successes, not physical victories and appearances.**

**10 For they say - Don’t worry about the “they say” people.**

**You may not seem like much – feel unprepared. Maybe your father was not around, you don’t know how to Father, don’t have much…**

**Paul did not look the part, and his public speaking skills were average – God used him in an amazing supernatural ways!**

**You may not seem like much, and others may judge you, but…**

**Then he adds this - 10:11 Let such a person (the accusers) understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. (Rest assured – we are the same people. I am not backing down when I get there.)**

**Paul did not put on an act – he was not trying to impress someone, nor was he going to back down from what was right.**

**5. Healthy leaders are the same no matter where they are**

**You’re not one way at home and one way at work – one way at church and one way with friends – you are the real deal – the same person.**

**Sadly, behind the curtain of many leaders and ministers – there are hypocritical and sinful double lives.**

**1 Timothy 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

**2 Cor 10:12 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. (NIV - When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.)**

**6. Healthy leaders do not play the comparison game**

**We are not trying to compare ourselves with others. This is carnal thinking.**

**As soon as you do, you start pursuing another's goals and ideals rather than the Lord’s will and gifts for you.**

**Pastors who are constantly trying to become like another church or pastor. Imitating the preaching and church model.**

**Yes, we can and should learn from other leaders – but we are to be who God has called us to be, and that is found in seeking God.**

**Who are you comparing yourself to? Who are you trying to impress? We are not the measure for others.**

**10:13 But we will not boast beyond limits but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves, (exaggerating) as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. (Paul is reminding them he and his team were the first to take the Gospel to Greece)**

**I will not take credit for someone else's ministry and work after I leave. I’m thankful for whatever part God gives me.**

**15 We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, 16 so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence.**

**I am thankful for the ministry that took place after we left - We trust that what God has started will continue to grow and make a difference to those around you. I was just the start.**

**7. Healthy leaders understand their role in God’s big picture**

**A good leader knows their role and recognizes other’s purpose in God’s plan.**

**10:13 But we will not boast beyond limits but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.**

**The idea of the limits of the sphere comes from the lanes that were allotted for runners in a race. Corinthians (close to Athens) loved competitive races and held the famous Isthmian Games in Corinth. Paul is saying, “I’m running in my own lane and not in someone else’s.”**

**A good leader embraces the honor of God's call for themselves and others. A good leader does not take credit for another’s achievements.**

**It is never about what we alone are doing. No lone rangers It’s knowing and rejoice in what part we can play. God is moving all over the world!!**

**The staff of our church we’re a team – I understand my role and their role and want to honor them. As a Father - My wife, kids and I are a team. I understand my role and their role.**

**The chapter ends with this - 10:17: “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” (Jeremiah 9:24) 18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.**

**(He ends reminding them of ) Jeremiah 9:23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”**

**Paul wanted them to receive his words for their sake – not for his. He was satisfied knowing he was serving and honoring the Lord.**

**8. Healthy leaders know their ability comes from Jesus**

**It is not one's skill or abilities, looks or physic, wealth or resume, accomplishments and pedigree, education or degrees…**

**RC Sproul – Ministry is the only profession in which if I have done anything successful, I can’t take any credit for it. - The work of the HS.**

**17 “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” 18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.**

**God knows what I’ve done - that is enough for me, even if no one sees**

**God knows what I can do - that is enough for me, even if no one knows**

**Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men… At His will, if it is his will - it will be evident.**

**God will make room for my gift – I don’t need to brag.**

**18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved…**

**You might get some attention / traction – but it’s not approved by God.**

**Those who promote themselves as amazing men/women of God. Propping themselves up in their own flyers and material.**

**There are people that church hop looking for positions.**

**A good leader does not need to self-promote – their gift will make room for them – just do what you do and stand back.**

**James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**

**If you are humbly consistently serving and doing a good job –**

**3 things happen:**

**1. Your ministry will be effective – the fruit will be evident.**

**2. Others will affirm that gift, and it will be evident.**

**3. opportunities to lead and serve will be extended – by God.**

**If there is anything good in me - anything done right – it is the Lord. Every gift, every ability. Every achievement – is the Lord.**

**Romans 11:36 - For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.**

**Leading and serving others is not for our glory – but God’s glory. At the end of the day, a healthy servant wants to hear - Matt 25:23: “Well done, good and faithful servant… Enter now into the joy of your lord.”**