

# The Cost of Love

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 11:16-33.

B. Many people feel that Paul is conceited.

II. Paul explains why he comes across as conceited: there are some that are so carnal he must stoop to boasting in worldly things.

A. Paul hopes to break the spell that has come across the Corinthians.

B. False teachers are misleading the Corinthians about Christ.

C. Ancestry.

1. Paul shows that he is superior if pedigree is important.

2. Pedigree is not important.

D. Service.

1. Paul shows that he is superior in the danger he has been in and the punishment he has received for Christ.

2. Paul also argued for his superiority in service based upon his anxiety for the churches.

3. However, Paul did this all for the love of Jesus, not for status.

III. What the Christian can truly boast of: those things that show his weaknesses.

A. Paul considered the event he was to boast about as one of the most significant events of his life.

B. Paul learned that one's natural gifts are not what make one fit for service for Christ—one's belief in Christ's willingness to work through a person make one fit for service.

C. All things were counted as manure to Paul compared to God working through him. (Philippians 3)

## Application questions:

1. Why did Paul boast in worldly things?

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2. What is the true boast of the Christian? Why is this not a boast in self at all?

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3. What things have you depended upon for power and peace? Spend some time in confession to God, and praise Him for the provision He has given in Christ.

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