

2 Corinthians 10:7-11

The eyes of the Spirit
and of the Flesh

It is human nature to want leaders
who are bigger than life

HERO FIGURES

Were the
Apostles
super-
Christians?



Acts 14

(After healing a man in Lystra
Paul is mistaken for a god)

“14 But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out 15 and saying, “**Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you,**”

2 Corinthians 10

“7 You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ’s, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ’s, so also are we. 8 For even if I should boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I shall not be put to shame, 9 for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters. 10 For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal (**bodily**) presence is (**weak**) unimpressive, and his speech contemptible.” 11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent,

2 Corinthians 10

“7 You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ’s, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ’s, so also are we.”

**Spiritual leaders
share the same Spirit
and nature as other
Christians.**



1 Corinthians 12

“4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but **the same Spirit**. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and **the same Lord**. 6 And there are varieties of effects, but **the same God** who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

- different gifts (motives)
- different roles (ministries)
- different effects (manifestations)

Same nature



2 Corinthians 10

“⁸ For even if I should boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I shall not be put to shame, ⁹ for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters.”



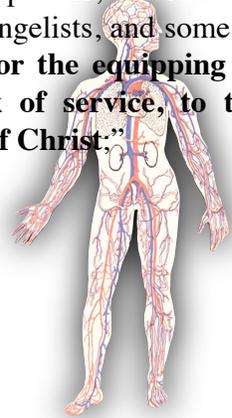
Spiritual leaders are to use their authority not to “intimidate” but to edify the Body of Christ.



Ephesians 4

“¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”

Spiritual leaders do not always have the “gifts” that we might expect.



2 Corinthians 10

“¹⁰ For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal (**bodily**) presence is (**weak**) unimpressive, and his speech (**despicable**) contemptible.””

In some ways Paul was probably not very impressive.



2 Corinthians 10

“¹¹ Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present.”

Spiritual leaders do not send conflicting messages.



Ways in which leaders are misunderstood

- ✓ They can be viewed as **distinct** from other Christians in some unreasonable ways.
- ✓ Their strengths can be exaggerated so as to **intimidate** others.
- ✓ Their weaknesses can be exaggerated so as to **discredit** their authority.
- ✓ Their sensitivity to varying contexts can be viewed as **hypocrisy**.

Seeing through the eyes of the Spirit

- ✓ Recognize that the Spirit’s eyes are **not the world’s eyes**.
- ✓ Resist the natural tendency to want (demand) “**bigger than life**” leaders.
- ✓ Leaders must **resist the pressure** to:
 - 1) be “**bigger than life**”
 - 2) hide their weaknesses
 - 3) lord it over others
- ✓ Leaders must deliver a **consistent** message in a consistent manner.
- ✓ Do not let **style** and **appearance** eclipse content.