

2 Corinthians

10:12-18

**“score-keeping”
in the Kingdom**

The Prodigal Son’s older brother had a
“religious spirit.”

**Superficial
Separatist
Score-keeping**



*Score-keeping is a way of notarizing my
significance as a human.*



✓ Popularity



✓ Position



✓ Numerical
growth



✓ Net worth



✓ Accomplishments

Romans 15

“¹⁷ Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God. ¹⁸ For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, . . . ²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man’s foundation;”

2 Corinthians 10

“¹² For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.”

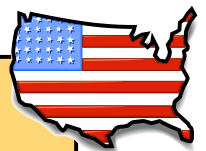
*Competition is a
part of our
cultural DNA.*

**“We are not going to
play this game of
competing with others
in ministry on the basis
of our own standards.”**



American values

Competition



Compassion



COOPERATION

Kingdom values



Satanic values



Challenges for all of us

1.
"Keeping score"
in life & ministry



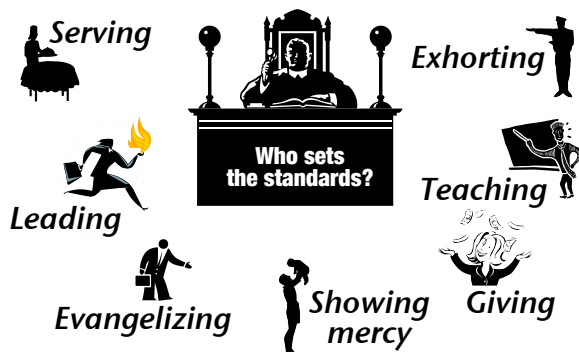
2.
Using oneself as
the standard



Churches have different strengths



*Each has a different strength which can
become a standard for score-keeping.*



2 Corinthians 10

"¹³ But we will not boast beyond our **measure**, but within the **measure** of the **sphere** which God apportioned to us as a **measure**, to reach even as far as you. ¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; ¹⁵ not boasting beyond our **measure**, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we shall be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, ¹⁶ so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the **sphere** of another."



**3. Inflating our
testimony and
importance**

2 Corinthians 10

“¹⁷ But he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord. ¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.”

4. Centering the story on ourselves



Where do we tend to compete?

- ✓ **Para-church ministries**
- ✓ **Congregations**
- ✓ **Denominations**
- ✓ **Individuals**

“Keeping score” in ministry

- ✓ **Enlightened Christians find their significance in Christ and are not in competition with others.**
- ✓ **The standard for evaluating ourselves is not the world.**
- ✓ **When we sugar coat our testimony we create distrust of the whole story.**
- ✓ **Our story involves us but is not centered on us.**