

**April 15, 2015**  
**“How to Answer Your Critics”**  
**2 Corinthians 12: 11-21**

- 1) **Let Your Actions Speak for Themselves** *“The signs of an apostle were performed with great endurance among you...”* (12) *“Never make excuses; your friends don’t need them and your foes won’t accept them.”*- John Wooden, UCLA Men’s Basketball Coach 1948-75
  
- 2) **Go the Extra Mile** *“Now I am ready to come to you this third time. I will not burden you, for I am not seeking what is yours, but you.”* (14)
  
- 3) **Respond with Christ-like Love** *“I will most gladly spend and be spent for you.”* (15a)
  
- 4) **Stand Up for Your Supporters** *“Did Titus take advantage of you? Didn’t we walk in the same spirit and in the same footsteps?”* (18)
  
- 5) **Speak Truth in Love** *“...everything, dear friends, is for building you up.”* (19)

**2Co 12:11-21** I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. (12) Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. (13) For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong! (14) Now *for* the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. (15) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved. (16) But be that *as it may*, I did

not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning! (17) Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you? (18) I urged Titus, and sent our brother with *him*. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did *we* not *walk* in the same steps? (19) Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But *we do* all things, beloved, for your edification. (20) For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and *that* I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest *there be* contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults; (21) lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.

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**David Self**

4/15, 4/29; 5/13 & 5/20 (not meeting on 5/6 or 5/27)

**Guest Speakers**

**Malcolm Marshall – 4/22**