

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Virtues in Rome

In Latin, *virtus* (*vir* means man).

It carries connotations of valor, manliness, excellence, courage, character, and worth, perceived as masculine strengths (from Latin *vir*, “man”). It was thus a frequently stated virtue of Roman emperors, and was personified as a deity—Virtus whose equivalent deity was Arete in Greece.

- From <https://brewminate.com/virtus-in-ancient-rome/>

What are Christian virtues in your thought?

How are they different from or similar to the Roman virtues?

Do you think the earliest Christians would expect such virtues from the earliest apostles?

3. Structure of Ch. 10

V. 1-2 Appeal: I am Paul

V. 3-6 Explanation I: Our Lives with the Divine Power

V. 7-11 Explanation II: Authority of Paul as the Apostle

V. 12-18 Explanation III: the Apostle’s Jurisdiction

4. Read Ch. 10

5. Questions

- a. What does Paul mean by “timid when face to face but bold when away”?
- b. In previous chapters, Paul talks about generosity. From this chapter, however, it sounds that he talks about an unrelated topic. Why?
- c. In verse 1, Paul describes himself to be “humble when face to face.” In the Greek-Roman society, do you think ‘being humble’ was virtuous?
- d. Can you find out any irony in this chapter?
- e. How do you understand the phrase “the human standard” in verse 2 and 3?
- f. How shall we understand the phrase “when your obedience is complete” in verse 6?
- g. The first sentence in verse 7 can be translated as a declarative sentence (NIV), as an imperative sentence (NRSV), or as an interrogative sentence (KJV). Do the different translations give us different understandings? How?
- h. In verse 8, how do you think Paul boasted of his authority “a little too much”? Can you relate it with the sentence, “I will not be ashamed of it”?
- i. Reading the last paragraph, verses from 12 to 18, what is/are the difference(s) between Paul and the antagonists?
- j. In this chapter, do you think Paul successfully proved that he was the right apostle for the church of Corinth and that the antagonists were not?

6. Closing Prayer