

**“Christ Alone”**  
**2 Corinthians 11:1-4**

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn In Our Bibles This Morning:
  - To 2 Corinthians 11:
    - Where We Will Begin A New Chapter:
      - In This Inspired Letter Written By The Apostle Paul!
    - But Before We Look Into:
      - The First 4 Verses Of This Chapter:
        - I Want To Begin By Asking You:
          - A Question!
2. **IE:** Have You Ever Wondered Why:
  - All-Too-Often - **People Treat The Worst:**
    - **Those Who Care For Them The Most?**
      - Unfortunately, You Can See This In Almost Any Human Relationship!
        - You Can See This Between:
          - Parents & Children!
        - You Can See This Between;
          - A Husband & A Wife!
        - You Can Even See This:
          - In A Church!
      - Do You See This In Any Of Your Relationships?
        - It Is A Cause For Great Concern:
          - Isn't It?
    - Because - All-Too-Often - Even **We** Treat The Worst:
      - Those Who Care For **Us** The Most!
        - Now - Why Does This Happen?
      - Well - This Was Something The Apostle Paul:
        - Was No Stranger To Either:
          - In His Life & Ministry For The Lord!
  - 2. In Fact - The Corinthian Church:
    - Was - In Many Ways - A Thorn In Paul's Side!
      - And Yet He Still Loved Them!
        - Later On In 2 Corinthians - 12:15 - Paul Even Says - "Though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved!"
    - Paul Was The One – Apart From Jesus Christ:
      - Who Cared For The Corinthian Church:
        - **The Most!**
          - And Yet - It Seems From What We Read In 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians - That:
            - They Treated Him **The Worst!**
    - And Instead Of:
      - Listening To Paul:
        - And His Caring Messages To Them:
          - They Started Listening To:
            - Some False Leaders & False Apostles Who Had Infiltrated Their Church In Paul's Absence - And Who Cared More For Themselves Than For The Corinthians!
  - 3. So - In 2 Corinthians 11:1-4:
    - Paul Attempts To Win Them Back!
      - But Not Just Back To Himself!
        - But Back To Christ - And To Christ Alone!
    - Beginning In 11:1 - Paul Writes:
      - "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. / For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. / But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. / For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another

gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him!”

4. In Verse 1:

- Paul Is Calling Upon The Corinthian Church:

- To “Bear With” Him Once Again!

- That Is - **To Listen** To What He Has To Say!

- To **Hear** His Words & Then To **Heed** His Words!

- Especially Since - It Is Clear:

- That They Had Been “Bearing With” And:

- Listening To The False Teachers:

- Who Were Trying To Lead Them Astray!

5. And So - With A Maybe A Little Bit Of Sarcasm:

- Paul Says To Them:

- If You Are Able To Put Up With:

- And Tolerate Their “Foolishness!”

- Then Maybe You Should Give Me The Same Courtesy!

- “Would To God Ye Could Bear **With Me** A Little In My Folly!”

- And Listen To What **I** Have To Say!

- Because He Cared For Them:

- Far More Than Those Imposters Did!

6. And Really - This Needs To Be Our Response As Well:

- To Those Who Care For Us The Most!

- Especially - Those Who Care For Our Souls!

- We Need To “Bear With” Them!

- Not Just A Little – But A Lot!

- And Listen To:

1. ***The Genuine Care For Our Souls!***

- Which Is What Paul Further Expresses In:

- 11:2 - “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ!”

- The Apostle Paul Had A Genuine Care:

- For The Souls Of The Members In The Corinthian Church!

- And He Expressed His Care With:

- ***A Godly Jealousy!***

- Or A Godly Zeal & An Ardent Love For Them!

- Paul Wasn’t Jealous:

- Of The False Teachers!

- Paul Was Jealous:

- For The Lord!

- As One Writer Explained It:

- Paul “Shared” In The Jealousy Of God Himself!

- “Human Jealousy Is A Vice, But To Share Divine Jealousy Is A Virtue!”

- And So - Paul’s Jealousy & Zeal Was:

- A Zeal For God!

- A Zeal From God!

- And A Zeal Like God’s!

- But Why Did Paul So Passionately Care:

- For The Corinthian Church?

- Even After Everything They Put Him Through?

- **IE:** Well - Think About The Relationship You Have - Or Once Had - With Your Parents! Were You The Perfect Child? Or Were You Like The Rest Of Us, And Gave Them Quite A Bit Of Grief & Cause For Concern! So - Why Did Most Of Your Parents Still Care For You - Even After Everything You Put Them Through? Because They Were / Are Your Parents! And They Love You & Want What’s Best For You!

- In The Same Way - Paul Cared For The Corinthian Church:

- Because He Was Like A Spiritual Father To Them!

- God Used **Him** To Bring **Them** To Christ!

- And So - Everything He Said & Did For Them:

- Was To Deepen Their Relationship With Jesus! With Christ Alone! And His Number-One Desire Was:
- To Prepare Them:
  - For A Relationship With Jesus Christ!
    - Paul Writes - "I Have Espoused You To One Husband!"
      - **IE:** In Ancient Times - Fathers Took A Far More Active Role In The Marriages Of Their Daughters - And They Did Everything They Could To Prepare Them For Their Engagement & Marriage!
  - In A Similar Way:
    - Paul - When He Brought The Gospel To The Corinthians:
      - Prepared That Newly-Formed Church To Become The Bride Of Jesus Christ!
        - An Illustration That We See Throughout The New Testament!
  - And Now - As Their Spiritual Father:
    - It Was His Responsibility To Guard This Church:
      - Until It Was Time:
- To Present Them:
  - At Their Wedding To Their "One Husband!"
    - **IE:** In Those Times - The Engagement / Betrothal Period Could Last Up To One Year - But In The Eyes Of The Law - The Future Husband & The Future Wife Were Already Married!
      - And So It Is For The Church Of Christ!
        - We Have Been *Espoused* To Christ & So - Right Now - We *Belong* To Christ, But We Are Still Awaiting The Marriage - Which Will Take Place At The "Marriage Supper Of The Lamb!" (Rev. 19:9)
  - And In The Mean Time:
    - It Is The Responsibility:
      - Of The Spiritual Fathers & Shepherds Of God's People:
- To Purify Them:
  - So That They May Be Faithful To:
    - And Become More Holy:
      - For Their Husband - For Christ!
  - This Is Why Paul:
    - Was So "Jealous" Over The Corinthian Church!
      - This Is Why Paul:
        - Cared For Them So Much!
  - He Had A Big Responsibility:
    - As A Father Would Prepare His Daughter:
      - To Be Married To Her Future Husband!
  - But If This Is The Kind Of Care:
    - Paul Had For Them:
      - Imagine The Kind Of Care:
        - That Jesus Has For You!
    - As The Hymn Goes:
      - "No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus!"
  - Because If You Have Jesus As Your Savior:
    - You Are Part Of His Bride - The Church!
      - And Christ Himself Is Jealous & Zealous Over You!
  - He Desire Is To:
    - "Sanctify and cleanse [you] with the washing of water by the word, / That he might present [you] to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that [you] should be holy and without blemish!" (Ephesians 5:26-27)
- And Isn't This What We Need As Well?
  - Not Just Leaders Who Care For Us:
    - But We Need To Care For Our Own Hearts & The Hearts Of Others In The Same Way!
      - With A Godly Jealousy!
        - To Be Prepared For & To Be Purified When You Are Joined With Christ Forever At The "Marriage Supper Of The Lamb!"
  - So - This Morning:
    - You Need To Remember:

- Who You Belong To!
- If You Are A Christian!
- You Are The Bride Of Christ! And You Belong To Christ Alone!

\* The Second Reason Paul Gave To The Corinthians For Listening To Him Is:

2. ***The Genuine Concern For Our Souls!***

- Which Is What We Find In:

- 11:3 - "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ!"

- The Apostle Paul Had A Genuine Concern:

- For The Souls Of The Members In The Corinthian Church!

And He Expressed His Concern With:

- ***A Godly Fear!***

- The Right Kind Of Fear That A Father Might Have:

- For His Daughter - So That She Might Remain Faithful:

- To Her Future Husband!

- And So - We See:

- A Concern About Deception!

- Paul Looks Back In History:

- To The Very Beginning - In The Book Of Genesis!

- Which - I Think It Is Important To Note - That Paul Does Not Regard As A Myth Or Merely An Allegory, But As True History!

- This Actually Took Place!

- In Genesis 3:1-6 - "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? / And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: / But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. / And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: / For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. / And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat!"

- Now - How Did The Serpent Beguile Eve?

- Through His Subtlety!

- His Crafty Questions & Appealing Lies!

- He Sought To Draw Eve Away From:

- The Clear & Simple Truths About God:

- And His Authority / His Goodness / His Wisdom / His Holiness!

- And Look What Happened!!

- And So - Paul's Concern:

- Is Grounded In Reality! The Reality:

- Of The Devil's Nature:

- And Even Our Own!

- So He Adds:

- A Concern About Delusion!

- 11:3 - "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ!"

- So Often - When We Think About "Corruption" We Think About The Body:

- And The Sins We Might Commit With Our Bodies!

- But Paul Is Here Concerned About The "Corruption" Of Your Mind!

- Isn't This Really Where All Sin Begins?

- When You Tolerate Error - Of Any Kind:

- Like Eve - You Are Listening To The Lies Of The Devil:

- And Will Be Tempted To Be Unfaithful:

- To The Lord!

- And This Can Begin With The Very Same Question:

- The Serpent Asked Eve?

- ***"Yea, Hath God Said?"***

- Did God Really Mean What He Said?
  - About Creation? 6 Days Of Evenings & Mornings / Light Before Sun / By The Word Of His Voice!
  - About Relationships? Husband & Wife / Man & Woman!
  - About Disobedience & Death?
- And When You Tolerate Those Questions:
  - You Will Soon Be Tempted To Be Drawn Away From:
    - “The Simplicity That Is In Christ!”
    - The “Exclusive Devotion” That Christ Desires & Deserves From You!
- And Isn't This What We Need As Well?
  - We Need To Have A Healthy Concern:
    - For Our Own Hearts & The Hearts Of Others In The Same Way!
      - With A Godly Fear!
        - That Instead Of Being Single-Minded & Single-Hearted Christians - Our Affections For Christ & Our Devotion To Christ May Compromised!
- So - This Morning:
  - You Need To Remember:
    - In Whom You Believe!
      - You Believe & Trust In “Christ Alone!”
    - And You Are “Cleaving To Christ Alone, Sincerely, With Your Whole Heart!”
      - His Word Is What Matters & What Must Take Precedence Over The Words Of Man!

\* The Third Reason Paul Gave The Corinthian Church For Listening To Him Is:

**3. *The Genuine Caution For Our Souls!***

- Which Is What We Read In:
  - 11:4 - “For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him!”
    - The Apostle Paul Gave A Genuine Caution:
      - To The Members Of The Corinthian Church!
      - And He Expresses This Caution With:
  - ***A Godly Warning!***
    - Which We Need To Heed As Well!
      - 11:4 Reminds Us Of What Paul Wrote In Galatians 1:6-8 - “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: / which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. / But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed!”
    - And So - We Find In 2 Corinthians As Well:
- A Warning Against Another Jesus!
  - “Who We Have Not Preached!”
    - That Is - A Different Kind Of Jesus!
      - Different In His Nature!
      - Different In His Teachings!
      - Different In His Claims!
      - Even Different In His Purpose!
  - It's Interesting To See That Paul Doesn't Use:
    - The Term “Christ!”
      - So - Perhaps The False Teachers Were Presenting Jesus:
        - As Just A Man & Not God! Or:
        - As Just Another Teacher & Not The Divine Word Of God! Also:
- A Warning Against Another Spirit!
  - “When Ye Have Not Received!”
    - That Is - A Different Kind Of Spirit!
  - When You Trust In Jesus As Your Savior:
    - You Receive The Gift Of The Holy Spirit!
      - Who Is The “Spirit Of Wisdom And Understanding, The Spirit Of Counsel And Might,

The Spirit Of Knowledge And The Fear Of The Lord!" (Isaiah 11:2)

- But The "Spirit" That The False Teachers Were Offering:
  - Was Likely A Spirit Of:
    - Bondage & Fear & The Spirit Of The Age!
  - This Does Not Mean That The Believers Were Becoming **Possessed** With Evil Spirits:
    - But Were Being **Influenced** By Them:
      - By Tolerating & Listening To False Teachers!
- This Is Why John Tells Us:
  - In 1 John 4:1-3 - "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. / Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: / And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world!" - Also:
- A Warning Against Another Gospel!
  - "Which Ye Have Not Accepted!"
    - That Is - A Different Kind Of Gospel!
      - They May Use The Same Words:
        - But If The Meaning Is Changed:
          - It Is Not The Gospel! It Is Not Good News!
- And Paul Is Warning Us In Case:
  - "Ye Might Well Bear With Him!"
    - There Are Certain Fundamentals To Our Faith:
      - Certain Non-Negotiables:
        - That We Must Not Tolerate:
          - We Must Not "Bear!"
  - Instead - We Need To Have:
    - The Same Kind Of Caution:
      - For Our Own Hearts & For The Hearts Of Others!
  - So - This Morning:
    - You Need To Remember:
      - Your Beginning!
        - As A Christian!
    - **It All Started:**
      - By The Grace Of Jesus **Christ!**
      - Through The Gift Of Jesus Christ:
        - The **Holy** Spirit Of God!
      - With The **True** Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
      - **In Christ Alone!**
  - There Is No Other Jesus!
    - There Is No Other Spirit!
      - There Is No Other Gospel!
        - So Be Cautious!
    - And - In The Words Of Hebrews 2:1:
      - "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip!"

### Conclusion:

1. So - Who Are You Listening To This Morning?
  - Who Are You Following?
    - Those Who Care For You The Most?
      - Those Who Show Their Concern & Offer Their Caution - To Keep You From Going Astray?
        - This Is What Paul Was Faced With!
          - And - Unfortunately - This Is What We Are Often Faced With!
2. But This Is Still What Genuine Christian Love:
  - Is Like - "Charity Suffereth Long And Is Kind!" (1 Corinthians 13:4)
  - Is This The Kind Of Love:
    - You Have For The Souls:

- Of Others?
  - For The Soul Of Your Wife / Husband / Children / Church!
- If You Really Care:
  - And If You Are Really Concerned:
    - You Will Continue To - Like Paul:
      - Point Them To Jesus Christ:
        - And To Christ Alone!
- So That They - Like You - Might Truly:
  - Belong To Christ!
  - Believe In Christ!
  - And Begin In Christ!
  - And In Christ Alone!

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