

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 11:1-6

Loyalty to Christ

I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. ² For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. ³ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully. ⁵ For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. ⁶ But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made *this* evident to you in all things.

I. Paul's Appeal (v.1) – I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.

Four areas of focus for Paul's appeal all begin with "for":

II. Paul's Jealousy (v.2a) – ² For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy;

III. Our Loyalty to Christ (v.2b-3) – for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. ³ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

IV. Our Temptation to Betray Christ for Another (v.4) – ⁴ For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.

- 1) **Another Jesus** -
- 2) **Another Spirit** -
- 3) **Another Gospel** -

V. Our Need for Discernment (v.5-6) – ⁵ For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. ⁶ But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made *this* evident to you in all things.

1. Launching Question(s):

- This is Ascension Sunday (Acts 1:6-11). How does the fact that Christ ascended affect your life?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul says that false teachers have lured the Corinthians away from the truth to follow another Jesus, another Spirit, and another Gospel (v.4).
- What are contemporary examples of this error in our culture?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In vs. 2b, Paul tells the Corinthians, “I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.”
- How is Paul like the father of a young girl being engaged to a young man?
- How is Christ like the husband of the church (Rev. 19:6-9)?
- Note that Scripture speaks of this current life for Christians as an engagement, whereas the return of Christ and the end of the age is spoken of as a wedding/marriage. Why is this?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- When is jealousy a vice?
- When is jealousy a virtue?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might you help our church prove to be a loyal bride to Christ?

May 29th, AD 2022 - Ascension Sunday