

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 11:7-15, 20

Discerning Good Teachers from Bad Teachers

I. Good Teachers (v.7-11) – ⁷ Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge? ⁸ I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you; ⁹ and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so. ¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do!*

1. **Humble (v.7-9)**
2. **Truthful (v.10)**
3. **Loving (v.11)**

II. Bad Teachers (v.12-15, 20) – ¹² But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds . . . ²⁰ For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.

1. **Prideful (v.12)**
2. **Deceitful (v.13-15)**
3. **Abusive (v.20)**

1. Launching Question(s):

- One of the hardest things that a Christian has to endure is having your good motives and actions being misunderstood. Can you think of an example of this in your own life?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Humility is a virtue that is exalted in Christianity, but often despised in the world. Why is this?
- Paul humbled himself by not accepting funds from the Corinthians and the false teachers exploited this service to attack Paul's qualifications. How so?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Similarly, Paul was accused of not loving the Corinthians (v.11).
- How might this situation relate to Martin Luther's quote? "I am not permitted to let my love be so merciful as to tolerate and endure false doctrine."

- In vs. 13, Paul calls out the false teachers by stating, “such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.”
- What were some of the wrong things that they were doing that might cause Paul to make such a scathing rebuke?
- In vs. 20, Paul accuses the Corinthians of the wrong kind of tolerance.
- What are right and wrong examples of tolerance that we should practice in the church?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Why do you suppose that “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light?” (v.14)?
- How might his followers do the same?

5. Application Question(s):

- What are some good sources that you can take advantage of this week to learn how to discern between good and bad teachers?

June 5th, AD 2022 - Pentecost Sunday