

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