

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 11:1-11)

1. In what way did Paul mean for them to understand his jealousy over the Corinthians?

In a way in which he was talking foolishly to illustrate how hard he worked to give them over to another than he – Christ: *“(1) Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. (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”* (II Corinthians 11:1-2).

- “Would to God” is a phrase that shows the emphasis on a statement of request (**Exodus 16:3, Numbers 11:29, Joshua 7:7, Judges 9:29, Acts 26:29, and I Corinthians 4:8**).
- Paul will later speak in a manner that will require them to bear with him as well (II Corinthians 11:16ff.).
- Paul was like a father bearing children in his work (**I Corinthians 4:15, Galatians 4:17-19, and I Thessalonians 2:11**).
- Thus, his “godly jealousy” was like a father giving his child away in marriage. This is a likeness to our relationship with God (**Isaiah 54:5, Hosea 2:19-20, and Revelation 21:2**).
- Being presented to the Lord as a chaste virgin is to be presented to Him in a pure manner (**Ephesians 5:25-27 and II Peter 3:14**).

2. What did Paul fear that could have corrupted the Corinthians from the simplicity in Christ?

That one would beguile them through subtlety: *“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”* (II Corinthians 11:3).

- He did not have confidence in the congregation (II Corinthians 12:20-21).
- As the serpent beguiled Eve (**Genesis 3:1-15**).
- Enticing words and human reasoning is often the form in which we can be beguiled (**Colossians 2:4 and Colossians 2:8**).
- The simplicity in Christ is what separates truth from fleshly wisdom (II Corinthians 1:12). It is as simple as just doing what the Lord says (**Colossians 3:17**).

3. Was there any concern that the Corinthians would listen to false doctrine?

Yes: *“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”* (II Corinthians 11:4).

- There is no other form of teaching about Christ or any other Christ that is right (**Acts 4:10-12 and Galatians 1:6-9**).
- Bearing with a false teacher is outright soul damning (II John 9-11; cf. **Romans 16:17-18, Ephesians 5:11, Jude 3-4, and Revelation 2:14-20**).

4. Though Paul did not feel worthy to be an Apostle (I Corinthians 15:9), was he behind the others?

No: *"For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles"* (II Corinthians 11:5).

- II Corinthians 12:11-12 and Galatians 2:7-9. *Note: This does not mean that Paul preached solely to the Gentiles (Acts 13:50, Acts 19:10, etc.).
- However, even though he worked harder than they all, he had the right attitude (I Corinthians 15:10).

5. Did Paul lack in knowledge?

In speech, but not in knowledge: *"But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things"* (II Corinthians 11:6).

- Paul is a great example of how preaching is not about presentation skills (I Corinthians 1:17, I Corinthians 1:21, I Corinthians 2:1-5, and II Corinthians 10:10).
- The power is in the Gospel (Romans 1:16).
- Yet, he was not ignorant of the truth (Ephesians 3:1-4).
- He also was an open book to all (Acts 20:18, I Thessalonians 1:5, and II Timothy 3:10).

6. Was Paul one that tried to exalt himself?

No: *"Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely"* (II Corinthians 11:7)?

- II Corinthians 10:1; cf. Luke 14:11 and Luke 18:10-14.

7. How did Paul keep himself from being a financial burden to the church in Corinth?

He received wages from other congregations: *"(8) I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. (9) And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself"* (II Corinthians 11:8-9).

- Philippians 4:11-18.
- He also did "secular work" at times to make ends meet (I Corinthians 4:11-12).
- It should be noted that Paul considered his not burdening them with supporting him as a possible mistake in judgment (II Corinthians 12:13).

8. Did Paul boast of the financial support he received from the churches in Macedonia because he did not love the Corinthians for their lack of support?

No: *“(10) As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. (11) Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth” (II Corinthians 11:10-11).*

- Paul was a man of truth (**Romans 9:1** and **I Timothy 2:7**).
- Paul was not swayed by men (**Galatians 1:10** and **I Thessalonians 2:4**).
- No one should have questioned his love for them (**II Corinthians 6:11-12** and **II Corinthians 12:15**).