

2 Corinthians 11

Title ideas:
Simplicity of Christ!

2 Corinthians 11:1-15 – The Simplicity of Christ!

Scriptures:
2 Corinthians 10:17-18 -
But “he who glories, let him
glory in the LORD.” 18 For
not he who commends
himself is approved, but
whom the Lord commends.

¹Oh, that **you** would bear with **me** in a little

folly—and indeed **you** do bear with **me**.

Notes:
Paul hates the idea of boasting
because the only thing worthy of
boasting about is the Lord (2 Cor.
10:17). The Corinthians have put up
with the boasting of Paul’s detractors
and their evil influence has impacted
the Corinthian church. So, in the next
section Paul will seem to stoop to
their level. This section explains why
he is going to do that.

Paul is embarrassed that he is being
forced to defend himself to the
Corinthians church.

Scriptures:
Deuteronomy 5:7-10 -
‘You shall have no other
gods before Me.
8 ‘You shall not make
for yourself a carved
image—any likeness of
anything that is in heaven
above, or that is in the earth
beneath, or that is in the
water under the earth; 9 you
shall not bow down to them
nor serve them. For I, the
LORD your God, am a
jealous God, visiting the
iniquity of the fathers upon
the children to the third and
fourth generations of those
who hate Me, 10 but
showing mercy to
thousands, to those who
love Me and keep My
commandments.

James 4:4-5 - Adulterers
and adulteresses! Do you
not know that friendship
with the world is enmity
with God? Whoever
therefore wants to be a
friend of the world makes
himself an enemy of God.
5 Or do you think that the
Scripture says in vain, “The
Spirit who dwells in us
yearns jealously”?

²For I am jealous for **you** with godly jealousy. For

2206 – ‘to be or
become desirous
of exclusivity in
relationship

I have betrothed **you** to one husband, that I may

present **you as** a chaste virgin to Christ.

53 –
pure,
faultless

3933 -

Notes:
We usually view jealousy as a
character flaw. If it is one of God’s
characteristics it must be pure and
holy. Sin is what makes jealousy
ugly and wrong. God is jealous for us
because He deserves 100% of our
love and devotion. To give less than
100% is to deny ourselves the fullness
of God’s grace, to deprive ourselves
of something that is good for us and
that we need. God deserves 100% of
our love and devotion because of
what He did to make it possible for
us to be in a relationship with Him.
He sent His Son Jesus to die so that
we could be reconciled back to God.
To give less than 100% of our love
and devotion to God would be to
despise God’s love and Christ’s
sacrifice.

When we are saved, we are betrothed
to Christ and once glorified we are
presented to Christ as His bride. Paul
is picturing himself as the father of
the bride. Paul is expressing paternal
jealousy. After all, he had fathered
the church. Paul was passionate
about the purity of the church.

Based on Scriptures like this one my
view of my role in the life of my
daughter was formed. My
responsibility to her was to help her
to be pure, sexually, emotionally,
physically, spiritually, until the day I
walked her down the aisle and placed
her hand into the hand of her
husband.

“He means that he cannot bear to see
his brethren turn from God to false
gods because he knows that it is to
their eternal ruin if they do.”
(Ironside, 1938) page 436

Scriptures:
Revelation 12:9 - So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Genesis 3:4 - Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Genesis 3:13 - And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

³ But **I** fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived

3789 -

1818 -

Notes:
Deceivers had crept into the church and there was a real danger of spiritual corruption in the church. Paul was concerned that they were being deceived and led astray from purity. Paul takes us back to the first human bride.

"When Eve fell, it was not because she was beaten into submission by Satan, but by his encircling her soul with sequential coils of deception as he promised Eve things he could not deliver." (Hughes, 2006) page 195

The more we allow the deceiver to speak into our lives, the more his coils of deception wrap around our lives corrupting us away from the purity God would call us to. One of his tactics is to convince us that 'purity' means something different than what God says - 'did God really say...'

Typically, the messages of these deceivers were tailored to appeal to the carnal nature of people. They said things that people want to be true, even though they aren't. Jim Bakker selling Silver Solution as a cure for coronavirus. People want to believe it is true and he is very charismatic. He is preying on their fear. Missouri has sued him and New York filed a cease and desist letter.

These deceivers are wolves in sheep's clothing.

"Christians are especially open to the kind of cunning deceit that combines language of faith and religion with the content of self-interest and flattery." D. A. Carson (Hughes, 2006) page 195

"Satan never says, 'Good morning, I am the Devil! I want to mislead you, I want to seduce you, I want to turn your heart away from God, I want to ruin you for time and eternity.'" (Ironside, 1938) page 437

The truth of God is simple, it is revealed plainly in the Word of God. Jesus told us to be little children, not like theologians or college professors.

Eve by his craftiness, so **your** minds

1st of two mentions of Eve in the New Testament

3834 - crafty, cunning

may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in

5351 - depraved, perseveres - 'To be or become actively deviating from what is considered moral, right, proper, or good.'

572 -

Christ.

Scriptures:

Galatians 1:6-9 - I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Psalms 12:7-8 -

The words of the LORD are pure words,
Like silver tried in a furnace of earth,
Purified seven times.
7 You shall keep them, O LORD,
You shall preserve them from this generation forever.

⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus

whom we have not preached, or if you receive a

different spirit which you have not received, or a

different gospel which you have not accepted—

you may well put up with it!

430 – be patient
with, endure, bear
with,

Notes:

The question we need to ask every time we hear someone teaching the Bible is, 'Are they teaching the Jesus of the Bible or a different Jesus?'

They were willing to accept a different gospel because they liked the way it sounded.

God's Word is perfect and eternal, no one should mess around with it (Psa.12:7-8).

It has been said (maybe by Thomas Jefferson) that 'Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.'

"...eternal vigilance is the price we must pay for maintaining the truth of God." (Ironside, 1938) page 435

Don't be gullible when it comes to the things of God. Know the truth and search the Scriptures before you accept any teaching that is different than what you already believe.

"For there is no other gospel of God than the gospel of His Son, telling sinful men of the way whereby they may be justified before His face." (Ironside, 1938) page 438

Scriptures:

⁵ For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the

5302 – be in a
state of low status

most eminent ^Aapostles.

3029 - extremely

652 – a special
messenger of
Jesus Christ,
messenger,
envoy, one sent

Notes:

Typically, these false teachers had letters of recommendation from important sounding people or organizations and they would boast about their standing with that organization – 1st in my class at the Advanced Institute of Apostolic Deception.

They questioned Paul's credentials – where are his letters of recommendation?

'eminent' = super

A speaker's status was measured by the fee he could get for speaking. The more you charge, the more important you were. A low fee, or no fee as in Paul's case meant you weren't that important.

"If the Devil cannot induce people immediately to give up some line of truth, then he will attack those whom God has sent forth to defend that truth." (Ironside, 1938) page 436

Scriptures:

⁶Even though *I am* untrained in speech, yet *I am*

2399 – ‘idiotes’ –
layman, someone
not an expert

Notes:

Paul was not as eloquent or
charismatic as the super-apostles, but
he was not inferior to them in
knowledge.

That begs the question – which is
more important for a preacher of the
gospel – skill or knowledge. Paul
suggests it is knowledge. The world
would rather have a skilled preacher
rather than a knowledgeable one.

not in knowledge. But

‘manifested’ – you have seen
firsthand the truth of Paul’s
apostleship.

we have been thoroughly manifested among you

5319 – cause to
be seen

in all things.

Scriptures:

⁷ Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you

Notes:

Paul's detractors were suggesting that the fact that Paul did not ask for a speaking fee meant:

1. His teaching was of low caliber
2. His message wasn't worth much
3. He gave it away because no one would pay for it
4. That he wasn't really an apostle

They are saying that a real apostle would have taken their money.

Paul would rather be speaking of Christ than defending his authority as an apostle of Christ.

might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of

God to you free of charge?

Scriptures:

⁸ I robbed other churches, taking wages from them

4813 -

2983 -

3800 – money for support, needed for living expenses

Notes:

The church of Corinth was prosperous, but because of accusations like this one he didn't burden them with his needs. But he did accept the generous support of churches less able to give than the church in Corinth.

'robbed' – hyperbole

to minister to you.

⁹ And when I was present with you, and in need, I

was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the

brethren who came from Macedonia supplied.

And in everything I kept myself from being

burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*.

Scriptures:

¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop

Notes:

Paul was modeling the example of Christ who taught for 'free' always. Paul is trying to turn this topic against the false teachers, asking what does it say about them that they won't teach unless they are paid well.

me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

Scriptures:

¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

Notes:

Paul calls God as his witness of his love for the church of Corinth. Paul was following the example of Christ and the Corinthians missed that or were drawn away from that by the false teachers.

Scriptures:

¹² But what **I** do, **I** will also continue to do, that **I**

Notes:

What Paul was doing was right and he intended to keep doing it, even if his detractors accused him of weakness or evil. Always do what is right and let God be your defense.

may cut off the opportunity from those who desire

an opportunity to be regarded just as **we** are in the

things of which they boast.

Scriptures:

¹³ For such **are** false apostles, deceitful workers,

Notes:

Paul uses the strongest language so far.

‘transforming themselves’ implies that they were doing it deliberately. They may have dressed in some way that made them look impressive – apostolic. That would have been quite a contrast to plain-dressed Paul. To them appearance was everything – to Paul the gospel was everything.

transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

3345 – change
appearance,
masquerade,
disguise

Scriptures:

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself

Notes:

Not only is Paul calling false apostles, but now he is calling them agents of Satan.

"It is so stupid of modern civilization to have given up believing in the devil when he is the only explanation of it." Ronald Knox (Hughes, 2006) page 199

transforms himself into an angel of light.

3345 – change
appearance,
masquerade,
disguise
V. 13

Scriptures:

15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers

Notes:

A special kind of wrath awaits those who lead people away from Christ in the name of Christ.

In a way, Paul is extending grace to the false prophets. If they heed his words and repent, they can be forgiven and escape the judgment coming to them.

also transform themselves into ministers of

righteousness, whose end will be according to

5056 – point of
time marking the
end

their works.

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Scriptures:

¹⁶ I say again, let no one think me a fool. If

Notes:

otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also

may boast a little.

Scriptures:

¹⁷ What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord,

Notes:

but as it were, foolishly, in this confidence of

boasting.

Scriptures:

¹⁸ Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I

Notes:

also will boast.

Scriptures:

¹⁹ For you put up with fools gladly, since you

yourselves are wise!

Scriptures:

²⁰ For you put up with it if one brings you into

Notes:

bondage, if one devours *you*, if one takes *from*

you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the

face.

Scriptures:

²¹ To *our* shame I say that we were too weak for

Notes:

that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak

foolishly—I am bold also.

Scriptures:

²² Are they Hebrews? So *am* I. Are they Israelites? Notes:

So *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So *am* I.

Scriptures:

²³ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a Notes:

fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in

stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently,

in deaths often.

Scriptures:

²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* Notes:

minus one.

Scriptures:

²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was Notes:

stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and

a day I have been in the deep;

Scriptures:

²⁶ in journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of

Notes:

robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils

of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the

wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among

false brethren;

Scriptures:

²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in

Notes:

hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and

nakedness—

Scriptures:

²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me

Notes:

daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Scriptures:

²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made

Notes:

to stumble, and I do not burn *with indignation?*

Scriptures:

³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast in the things which

Notes:

concern my infirmity.

Scriptures:

³¹ The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Notes:

who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

Scriptures:

³² In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the

Notes:

king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes

with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;

Scriptures:

³³ but I was let down in a basket through a

Notes:

window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.