

2 Corinthians 11:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.

² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

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!

“How Committed Are We?” **2 Corinthians 11:1-4**

INTRO:

In **2 Corinthians 11**, the Apostle Paul prepared to launch a defense against the false apostles. He began by asking the Corinthians to bear with him and to put up with his foolish boasting. This statement leads to a very special glimpse into Paul’s heart for the Corinthians and his love for them and his desire for them to be Christ’s alone.

I. Paul’s Concern for the Corinthians (1-2)

II. Paul’s Fear, Satan Had Beguiled Them (v. 3-4)

I. Paul’s Concern for the Corinthians (1-2)

2 Corinthians 11:1–2 *“Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ”*

A. Paul was going to stoop to boasting because the false apostles compelled him to do this. Although in his mind such **“boasting”** was foolishness, Paul feared for the spiritual condition of the Corinthians.

“Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.”

B. Because this issue of boasting is so distasteful to Paul, he wanted them to understand why he was doing it. He did it first and foremost because he was very concerned about their spiritual condition.

“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ”

1. Paul talks about jealousy from **“God.”** This almost seems like a contradiction in terms. Isn't jealousy and envy a sin? Human jealousy is largely sin because it is usually selfishly motivated. However, the Bible does talk about God's jealousy. For example, we read in **Exodus 20:4-5,**

“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; 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.”

Why is God so concerned about our worship of Him alone? God's jealousy is because we lack commitment to Him alone. However, God's Jealousy is not sinful because He is totally without sin. He is the one true and living God. Beside Him there is no other.

2. D. A. Carson wrote, *“Divine jealousy is a virtue. It is a form of holy outrage mingled with love: the objects of the jealousy owe their love and allegiance to God, solemnly pledge him their filial devotion and covenantal obedience, receive all they have of strength and health and possessions and reason from his gracious hand—and then proudly strut their self-proclaimed independence before his face. Worse, they sell themselves to false lords, masters, who take everything and give nothing. God is rightly outraged: he would be less than holy were this not his response. Yet at the same time he loves his wayward people, and grieves over their self-inflicted prostitution and hurt.”*

C. We may understand a little of why God is Jealous, why is Paul jealous with a jealousy from God? Paul explained it by turning to one of his favorite word pictures to describe the Christian's relationship to Christ, marriage.

“For I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

The picture is drawn out in **Ephesians 5:22-26.** As believers, we live in the divine love of our Savior, but do we give Him our exclusive love in return? **1 John 2:15-17,** says,

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

When Paul came to Corinth and these folks were saved, as their spiritual father, Paul betrothed them to Christ. However, they were like the Christians John wrote to in **1 John 2.** Paul feared they had not given their exclusive love to Christ.

II. Paul's Fear, Satan Beguiled Them (v. 3-4)

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 *“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. 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 embraced—you may well put up with it!”*

A. After talking about his jealousy with God's jealousy, he told them why he was so concerned. He was afraid that they had fallen prey to the same technique Satan had used on Eve.

B. When Eve fell she was not battered into submission. Rather she was deceived by the serpent's cunningness. Eve believe the lie Satan told that if she ate of the one tree they were forbidden to eat, she would become like God. She believed took of the fruit and gave it to Adam and the rest is history.

C. In a similar way Paul is concerned the Corinthian believers have believed the lies of the devil and will fall for a false Jesus, receive a different spirit than the Holy Spirit and embrace a different Gospel. This is no small matter. Only the true Savior, the true spirit, and the genuine Gospel saves. You received the false apostles, so put up with my boasting for a while.

Questions For Application:

1. How deep is our love for the Lord? Have we made the commitment to seek to serve Him and follow Him only and not let anything pull us away from Him?
2. Do we recognize the danger of being drawn away by Satan? Are we heeding the warning from the Apostle John in **1 John 2**? When I went to Moody we had several professors speak in chapel. One professor took us to **1 John 2:15—17** and showed us that worldliness is an illicit love affair when we love the world more than we love God. How about us? How real and committed is our Love for the Lord?

Hymn #369 O Jesus, I Have Promised