WHAT IF THE JESUS YOU BELIEVE IN IS NOT THE REAL JESUS?

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

WE MUST GUARD AGAINST "FALSE GOSPELS" THAT SOUND GOOD BUT LEAD US AWAY FROM PURE DEVOTION TO CHRIST (vss. 1-4)

- *"But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if a person comes and preaches another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you had not received, or a different gospel, which you had not accepted, you put up with it splendidly!"* (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)
- **Not everything that sounds spiritual, biblical, or even Christian is necessarily from God.**
- See (Galatians 1:6-9)
- **The most dangerous lies are not just the ones that openly reject Jesus, but also the ones that subtly redefine Him until you're following a Jesus who looks nothing like the One revealed in Scripture.**

OUR LOVE FOR THE TRUTH AND FOR OTHERS SHOULD COMPEL US TO SACRIFICE FOR THE KINGDOM WORK (vss. 5-11)

- *"When I was present with you and in need, I did not burden anyone, since the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my needs. I have kept myself, and will keep myself, from burdening you in any way. 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 don't love you? God knows I do!"* (2 Cor. 11:9-11)
- **Genuine love for Jesus isn't measured by how much we can gain from serving Him, but by how much we're willing to sacrifice so that others can come to know Him.**
- **When the gospel matters more to you than your personal comfort, recognition, or financial gain, you'll gladly make sacrifices so that nothing unnecessarily stands between someone else and Jesus.**

FALSE TEACHERS WHO MASQURADE AS MEN AND WOMEN OF GOD NEED TO BE EXPOSED FOR WHAT THEY ARE (vss. 12-15)

- *"But I will continue to do what I am doing, in order to deny an opportunity to those who want to be regarded as our equals in what they boast about. 13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no great surprise if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will be according to their works."* (2 Corinthians 11:12-15)**.**
- **Satan doesn't always attack the church by standing outside and opposing the truth; sometimes he works through people inside the church who disguise deception as biblical teaching.**
- *"Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves."* (Matt. 7:15)
- **A preacher's popularity, charisma, ability to draw or move a crowd is never proof that they speak for God. The true test of their message is whether it faithfully agrees with the Word of God!**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- What three things does Paul warn the Corinthians about accepting, and how does their willingness to tolerate these things reveal a spiritual problem? (vs.4)
- How does Paul defend his ministry against the accusations of the false apostles? (vss. 5-11)
- How does Paul describe the false apostles and what comparison does he make between them and Satan's ability to disguise himself? (vss. 12-15)

Understanding

- Why do you think Christians can sometimes be attracted to teachings that sound encouraging, inspiring, or spiritual but do not accurately reflect biblical truth?
- What are some warning signs that a teaching may be appealing more to our personal desires than directing us toward genuine devotion to Jesus?
- Why is spiritual deception often more effective when it contains elements of truth rather than being an obvious rejection of God?
- Personal Reflection: How consistently do you examine what you hear against Scripture rather than accepting it because you trust or admire the person teaching it?
- Why is personal sacrifice often an important part of genuinely loving and serving others?
- What are some sacrifices Christians may need to make today to help others hear, understand, and respond to the gospel?
- Why is false teaching sometimes more difficult to recognize when it comes from someone who appears sincere, knowledgeable, compassionate, or spiritually impressive?
- What responsibilities do individual believers have to examine biblical teaching rather than relying entirely on pastors, church leaders, or popular Christian personalities?