

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Oh that you would bear with me in a little **folly**-and indeed you do bear
Paul is about to reluctantly share about what God has done in his ministry
He did not desire to sound as if he was boasting about himself
THIS IS WHAT THE INTRUDERS DID
- II) He had just written he who glories, let him glory in the Lord (10:17)
What he is about to share can very easily be twisted and misunderstood
He did not want them to misunderstand why he was sharing these things
- III) He had just written these infiltrators were prone to **self-commendation** (10:12)
He didn't want to seem to be like them
- IV) The problem was they were putting him in the position that **he had to** do this
They were **forcing him** to defend his ministry and exercise apostolic authority
- V) Later he wrote: 2 Co 12:11 **I have become a fool; you compelled me.** For I ought to have **been commended** by you, for in no way was I inferior to those **most eminent apostles**, even though I am nothing.
- VI) One of the characteristics of his opponents was boasting of their accomplishments
They set themselves up as the standard for all Christian teachers
They even went so far as to elevate themselves above Paul, **an Apostle of Jesus**
- VII) Their arrogance was one of the ways they could be identified **as false**
Their lack of humility should have been a warning to the Corinthians
- VIII) The minister was to be humble
We follow the example of Jesus, who revealed sacrificial love for others
Mt 20:28 the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve** and to give His life as a ransom for many
- IX) Jesus came to model true greatness: **sacrificial service**
This is what Paul had learned, and he knew he was simply a servant of God
1 Co 3:5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? **Only servants**, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task (role).
IN CONTRAST TO PAUL
- X) The false teachers were building up their following by attacking **him**
He needed to do this to expose the intruders as false teachers

- I) These men were presenting themselves as men with authority
They needed to be dealt with, and Paul begins doing so in this chapter
WHAT DROVE THESE INTRUDERS
- II) The motives of the false teachers, in part, included self-promotion
In a fleshly way they desired to be regarded as great and wise
In this way, they were guilty of **commending themselves** (10:12, 18)
FACT
- III) Paul knew **true prominence in** God's kingdom did not come through **self-promotion**
It is God who determines the amount of prestige and recognition His servant has
Ps 75:6-7 No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man. But
it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.
ILLUSTRATION
- IV) On one occasion James and John asked Jesus to do something for them
They asked if they could sit at His right hand and left hand when He ruled
They were asking for Him to put them in the places of highest honor
- V) Jesus had recently told the twelve that they would have places of prominence
Peter had told Jesus they had left all to follow Him: What will our reward be?
Mt 19:28 Jesus told them, I tell all of you with certainty, when the Son of Man sits
on his glorious throne in the renewed creation, you who have followed Me will also sit on
twelve thrones, **governing the twelve tribes of Israel**
- VI) Since they were to govern, James and John asked to have prominent positions
Mk 10:40 (Jesus said) To sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give,
but it is for those **for whom it is prepared.**
- VII) The proper attitude of a servant was seeking to exalt God and to take a lower seat
PAUL WAS A HUMBLE MAN
- VIII) Paul was not writing out of injured pride but instead, pastoral concern (11:11)
He expressed his feelings openly, though he disliked having to be vulnerable
HE NOW OPENS UP
- IX) V2-5 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy For I have betrothed you to one
In these verses he gives three reasons for them to bear (put up) with him
THE FIRST REASON
- X) V2 He has a godly, fatherly jealousy for them, because they are in danger
I am **jealous** for you with **godly jealousy** (Not carnal but spiritual protectiveness)
Jealous: To desire earnestly; a deep, passionate, and intense love

- I) He is saying I am passionately, strongly, and lovingly attached to you
He was extremely concerned and protective for their spiritual well being
As a **spiritual** father, he viewed them through the lens of eternity

QUESTION

- II) Is this jealousy something that is carnal and sinful?
Is it carnal for Paul to feel this way: is it the sign of a cult leader?

ANSWER

- III) In the bible, God is revealed as a jealous God

Ex 34:14 You shall worship no other god: for the LORD, **whose name is Jealous**, is a jealous God

Jas 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. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us **yearns jealously**"?

- IV) God's desire is for His people to worship Him with an undivided heart

As His people, we are to love Him and serve Him, **exclusively**

Mk 12:30 You shall love the Lord your God **with all your heart**, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment.

- V) Paul's concern was that they be totally faithful to the Lord
To illustrate this, he portrays himself as the father of the bride

- VI) As the father, he is presenting his daughter in marriage (Who gives this woman?)

Present: To place beside or near

FIRST

- VII) Scripture presents Jesus as the Husband, and the Church as His Bride

This is pointed out in the Book of Ephesians

Eph 5:31-32 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- VIII) As the one who led them to Jesus, he is **their father** in the faith

1 Co 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, **I have begotten you** through the gospel. As a father gives away his daughter, he betrothed his spiritual daughter to Jesus

SECOND

- I) Scripture also presents Jesus (the Husband) as our **High Priest**
Heb. 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great **high priest** who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
- II) In the law of Moses there was a requirement for the high priest when he married
Lev 21:13 (The High Priest) shall take a wife **in her virginity**
PAUL WANTS TO PRESENT A PURE BRIDE TO JESUS
- III) **Application:** To be spiritually **deceived** is to be **seduced** from Jesus, and polluted
Jer 3:6 The LORD said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot.
PAUL IS PROTECTING THEIR PURITY
- IV) V3 **I fear** lest somehow as the serpent **deceived** Eve by his craftiness so your minds
The serpent is another name of the Devil, or Satan
NOTICE
- V) In the garden Satan, by **craftiness** (cunning wickedness) **deceived** Eve
His primary weapon was to question God's **character** and **word** (has God said?)
Gen 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman **Has God indeed said** You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, **nor shall you touch it, lest** you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.** For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and **you will become like God**, knowing good and evil."
- VI) His lie was that by **disobeying God's word**, you can become like God
- VII) The **same evil tactic** is being used by the false teachers: **has God said?**
They are changing the gospel by attacking Paul's **way of proclaiming**
REMEMBER
- VIII) The gospel message of salvation **by faith in Jesus** was not invented by Paul
In 1 Co 15:3 (he said) I delivered to you first of all that **which I also received**
Gal 1:11-12 I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ
PAUL PREACHED THE TRUE GOSPEL

- IX) Satan is the originator of all false doctrines and is a master of deception
- I) 1 Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines (**teachings inspired**) of demons
HIS FEAR?
- II) Satan may **through deceit** defile your committed love for Jesus through these men
I am alarmed that these impostors are seducing you into unfaithfulness
- III) V3 Your minds **may be corrupted** from the simplicity that is in Christ
Corrupted: Defiled; made impure; led astray
I am concerned that your thoughts will be twisted and drawn away from Jesus
- IV) V3 I fear that you may be drawn away from the **simplicity that is in Christ**
Simplicity: The virtue of being free from pretense and hypocrisy
The purity and singleness of affection and devotion **to Jesus**
PAUL NOW EXPOSES THE FALSE TEACHERS
- V) V4 For if **he who comes** preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached or if
Various commentators think this refers to **the leader** of the false teachers
Under his teaching and influence, **Jesus** and **the gospel itself** is changed
FIRST
- VI) V4 They are preaching **another** (one of a different kind) **Jesus**
They are preaching a false Messiah, though their message is undisclosed
KEY
- VII) Paul preached Jesus as God's promised Messiah
He was the Savior who saves by grace and faith: God in the flesh, fulfilled OT prophecy, was crucified, died, buried, resurrected, sent the HS and returning in glory
- VIII) The false teachers didn't preach the true Jesus, giving **their own version** of Him
They were changing Him into someone and something different then He is
FACT
- IX) This is typical of false teachers and is why Paul wrote warnings about them
Jesus is a created being, or the brother of Lucifer: a great teacher, final prophet
Col 2:8-9 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives **all the fullness of God in a human body.**
SECOND
- X) V4 A **different** spirit: Not of the same nature, form, class, or kind, different
A counterfeit power or stimulation that inspires them to preach error

- I) This reminds me of what Paul had written in his first letter to the Corinthians
1 Co 12:3 I want you to know that no one who is **speaking by the Spirit of God** says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
- II) It is **the Holy Spirit** who gifts the church and sets us free from bondage
This is the One that Paul had proclaimed to the church
2 Co 3:17 The Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is **there is liberty**
- III) The false apostles brought with them a spirit of fear and bondage (2 Ti 1:7)
Ro 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father"
THIRD
- IV) V4 A different gospel: Another way to salvation, different than the true gospel
This is what false teachers preach
Gal 1:6-9 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!
- V) This is **another reason** why they should bear with him
V4 They have opened themselves up to false teacher and false gospel
- VI) V4 His concern was that they might **well put up with it!**
You are inclined to believe the eloquent preacher of a different gospel
- VII) They had already shown that they were prone to establish favorite teachers
1 Co 1:12-13 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
- VIII) They have shown that they are prone to embracing various teachers
Paul fears that they will embrace the lies of the false teachers

- IX) V5 He now gives **the third reason** that they should bear with him
- I) Between the two ministries, his is the one established by God
This brings us to **another charge**: he is their spiritual inferior
21st CHARGE
- II) V5 For I consider that **I am not at all** inferior to the most eminent (exceeding)
As a member of God's chosen apostles, I am in no way inferior to these phonies
- III) V6 Even **though I am untrained in speech**, yet I am not **in knowledge** But we have
I can't **spellbind** you with eloquence, exciting stories, humor, or polished speech
- IV) As they have said: my speech is **contemptible** (not worth listening to; no value)
I am not as smooth as they are: I preach like the average person
IMPORTANT
- V) **We will see** that these false teachers are Jews
They would have been influenced by the way Rabbis taught
They would have repeated traditional interpretations and quoted other rabbis
- VI) Paul would have not used rabbinic tradition and interpretations of scripture
He would have spoken with revelation of what God was **doing now**
THE REVELATIONS
- VII) He revealed that **Jesus is God in the flesh**
Col 2:9 For in Christ lives **all the fullness of God in** a human body
- VIII) He revealed that **salvation is through faith in Jesus**, by grace and not the Law
Ro 5:1 Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
- IX) He revealed that the **church** is made up of Jew and Gentile
Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female for **you are all one** in Christ Jesus
- X) He revealed that the church **would be raptured**
1 Co 15:51-52 Behold I tell you **a mystery**: We shall not all sleep but we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed
1 Th 4:16-17 the **Lord Himself** will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the

first to rise. After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord

I) I may not be eloquent but it doesn't mean that I am ignorant of the gospel message

II) In fact, I am thoroughly acquainted with the truth of the Gospel

I preach and teach it plainly in a way that all can understand, as you know well!

1 Co 2:1-5 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with **eloquence** or **human wisdom** as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved **to know nothing** while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that *your faith might not rest on human wisdom*, but on God's power.

III) V6 But we have been **thoroughly manifested** among you in all things

I have concealed nothing from you: You have seen all evidence of my office

I have been honest, and have given **you my heart** as well **as the gospel**

THE 22ND CHARGE

IV) He was too proud to receive support from Corinth because he wasn't worth it

V) V7 Did I commit sin **in humbling myself** that **you** might be exalted because I

He took support from other churches but was too proud to receive from Corinth

The false teachers said this made him **unworthy of support**

VI) Paul did not ask for support: He made tents, and other churches supported him

Out of his love for them, this kept him from being a financial burden

1 Co 9:14-16 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope **that you will do** such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast. Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

VII) V7 (He did this so) That **you** might be exalted (elevated in spiritual understanding)

He did this so they could receive the benefits of grace without financial stress

VIII) V8 I robbed other churches taking wages from them to minister to you

He received from other churches what properly should have come from Corinth

Churches in Macedonia supported Paul: Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea

- IX) I haven't asked for support out of love for you so that I am not a burden to you
- I) Other Churches have supported me, freeing me up to serve you
This shows that his concern financially was not for himself
- II) V9 And when I was present with you and in need ***I was a burden to no one***
Burden: I did not become a heavy weight to you, causing emotional stress
God supplied my need through other brothers and my own physical labor
1 Th. 2:9 Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you
- III) V10 As the truth of Christ is in me no one shall stop me from this boasting
I will not receive support from you
- IV) V11-12 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!
The church was convinced he did not receive help because he did not love them
If he loved them, he would have trusted them and received from them
- V) I have preached free of charge to you for a reason
To cut off those who make false charges against me to equate themselves with me
- VI) These false teachers greedily seek your finances: ***But I seek you***
2 Co 12:14 Now I am coming to you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you. ***I don't want what you have—I want you***. After all, children don't provide for their parents. Rather, parents provide for their children.