

- I) V11-13 INTRO: O Corinthians We **have spoken openly** to you our heart is wide open
 - Paul has been busy defending his ministry throughout this letter
 - False teachers have crept in and have worked to undermine his ministry
- II) These wolves have made accusations against him, intending to discredit him
- III) As we have gone through the letter, we have observed a number of the charges
 - He suffers because **he deserves to**, he uses **fleshy methods**, he uses **innuendo**, he is **unstable**, changing his mind easily; he is **self appointed**, he's a **spiritual bully**, an **unemotional**, unloving intellect, **forces people to leave the church**, preaches for **money**, has no **ministry credentials**, labors **in the flesh**, deceitfully **twists scripture**, preaches **himself** and not Jesus, and is a madman

THERE ARE MANY MORE CHARGES TO COME
- IV) In order to safeguard the church he had to defend himself against the charges
 - To do so, he rehearsed some of the trials he had endured for the gospel's sake
 - This was to re-inforce his credibility and to remind them of his faithfulness
- V) V3-4a made it clear that he was to be careful to **not offend people**
 - He wanted to be known as a genuine minister
- VI) His life was lived in such a way that the message and his ministry is blameless
 - His greatest desire was to safeguard the purity of the message of reconciliation

AS WE SAW
- VII) To re-inforce his credibility, he reviewed some of the trials that he had endured

WHY WOULD HE NEED TO DO THIS
- VIII) This was because wolves had entered the flock were boasting of their credentials
 - These infiltrators did this because they sought honor **from the church**
 - They desired to be known as very spiritual, and so they built a pecking order
- IX) Paul will later speak clearly about what they have been doing
 - 2 Co 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those **who commend themselves**. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
- X) To provide contrast and establish his ministry he reminded them of **his credentials**
 - This was not because he desired to boast, but to protect them
 - He desired to safeguard the ministry from false accusations

I) **WHY DOES THIS MATTER**

A poorly lived life undermines the gospel of power, redemption and transformation

II) His list of things he had endured should have been something they were aware of
They should have known this and come to his defense, but they hadn't

III) He will make this clear later in the letter

2 Co 12:11 I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been **commended by you**; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

AS WE'VE SEEN

IV) Paul began by speaking of his general, **outward trials** (V4-5)

In patience, tribulations (troubles), needs (hardships), distresses (pressed)

HE WROTE OF INFILCTIONS BY MEN

V) Stripes (beatings), imprisonments, tumults

HE WROTE OF SELF INFILCTED HARSHPS

VI) In labors, sleeplessness, and fastings

HE WROTE OF HIS MOTIVES AND METHODS

VII) V6-7a **By** Purity, knowledge (of Jesus, and doctrine), longsuffering (enduring insult), kindness (acts of love), by the gifts of the Spirit, by sincere love, and by the Word of truth, the power of God, and by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and the left

VIII) He then made it clear that the conflict was **spiritual** in nature

This was **spiritual warfare** and to have victory he used **spiritual weapons**

By the **Word of truth**, the power of God, and the armor of righteousness

FINALLY

IX) He responded to the attacks he had personally endured

His detractors were encouraging the church to **forsake him** and his **ministry**

They used various tactics to undermine, including gossip, lying, and belittling him

NOTICE THE TACTICS

X) Dishonor, evil report, deceivers, unknown, dying, chastened, sorrowful, poor, having nothing was his life and were some of the things that he had endured

XI) These were some of the things being said of him by those who had entered in

This is what had led him to respond to their constant attacks on him

WHY DID HE RESPOND

XII) He cared about the church and knew that the work would be undermined by lies

I) **IN OUR DAY**

People need to be reminded that there are times when responding is necessary
It is because false teachers (wolves) continue to exist and to abound

II) The fact is false teachers undermine people's walk with God and cripple faith
PRACTICAL APPLICATION

III) Over the years I have had the opportunity of encountering many false teachers
These are a few of the things that I have seen that help to identify them
FIRST

IV) They often have strong and confident personalities, and **speak well**
The bible does not teach that a bible teacher needs to be a great **speaker**

V) Paul was not attractive, nor was he considered a **polished communicator**
This was one of the negative things the false teachers said about him
2 Co 10:10 For it is said, "His **letters** are weighty and powerful, but his **physical presence** is weak and his **public speaking** amounts to nothing."

VI) He later responds to this
2 Co 11:6 I may indeed be **untrained as a speaker**, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

VII) The more important thing is that the **word of God** be communicated **accurately**
2 Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately **the word of truth**.

SECOND

VIII) A false teacher often presents themselves as being superior
They often have **new revelation** or deeper understanding of spiritual things

IX) The infiltrators in Corinth presented themselves as super apostles, belittling Paul
2 Co 11:5 Paul said I am **not at all inferior** to the most eminent apostles.

THIRD

X) They do not teach the whole counsel, but select verses that they use to ensnare
They often promise that all your dreams come true: health, wealth, **success**
Titus 1:11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain
If we used this **as a standard** every apostle and prophet would be total failures

I)

FOURTH

False teachers live unholy, unloving lives

Titus 1:16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good

FIFTH

II) They use the ministry to become rich off of the people

2 Pe 2:3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories **they have made up**

SIXTH

III) They tickle the ears of the hearer to keep the crowds coming

Gal 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or **do I seek to please men?** For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ

SEVENTH

IV) They **change the message** of the gospel, twisting it to deceive and gain followers

Gal 1:8-9 Let God's curse fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other message than the one we told you about. Even if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed. I will say it again: If anyone preaches any other gospel than the one you welcomed, let God's curse fall upon that person.

EIGHTH

V) They preach a different Jesus and a different gospel (2 Co 11:4)

1 Jn 4:3 every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh **is not from God.** And this is the spirit of the Antichrist

IN THIS CASE

VI) Because the church has been infiltrated, Paul's love and concern for them is stirred

He loves them, and desires to present them to Jesus as sincere Christians

2 Co 11:2 I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. For I promised you as a pure bride to one husband, Christ.

VII) This love for them has provoked him to open his heart to them

WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR STUDY

VIII) V11-13 O Corinthians we have spoken openly to you, **our heart is wide open**

His emotions **are stirred**, and he writes with great open heartedness

As a minister who loves you, I am transparently sharing with you

IX) In ministry, rejection often is one of the **deepest pains** you can experience

It is difficult to remain vulnerable in the face of rejection and abandonment

The natural response to such rejection is to withdraw

- I) Those you love **the most** have the power to hurt you the most (2 Co 12:14-15)
 Zech 13:6 And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?'
 Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in **the house of my friends.**'
- II) His honest vulnerability prepares the people for his appeal for a re-commitment
 He is about to correct misconduct, so he begins by requesting **openness**
PAUL MAKES IT CLEAR
- III) V11 (He says) we have been **candid** with you and have spoken **openly** to you
 I have completely spoken from the fulness of my heart, in complete honesty
 I have become vulnerable out of love and concern for you
- IV) He is saying, my heart **has been opened up** to you **with room for you** within it
 It has been opened wide enough to receive all of you
- V) He loved these people, and was telling them how deeply he cared for them
 He was not using them, lying to them, abusing them or deceiving them
- VI) He was simply being an open hearted, caring shepherd to them
- VII) This was, in general, how he ministered: he withheld nothing from them
 Ac 20:20 **I kept back nothing** that was profitable to you
 He says I have been open with you, now in response be open to me
- VIII) V12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted **by your own affections**
- IX) **Exhortation:** Do not **restrain yourselves** from receiving what I have to say
 My heart has made room for you, so please make room in your heart for me
 I love you and care for you, and because of this love I am openly sharing my heart
- X) Some of you have listened to my detractors and it has quenched your love for me
 They have convinced you that I do not love you and I can't be trusted
 They have influenced you, and **some of you** have believed their lies
 This has led you to close your hearts to us
- XI) V13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open
 I speak like a father speaks to his children, remembering children love their dad

I) Pr 4:1 Hear *my* children the instruction of a father and give attention to know understanding
 Pr 7:1 My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.
 Open your hearts to me and receive my words of correction

II) As my children in the faith, enlarge your heart **to me** and **receive my instructions**
 1 Co 4:14-15 I write not these things to shame you, but as **my beloved sons** I warn you. 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

III) The church needed correction and Paul now corrects them
KEY: Correction is most effective when exercised in love

IV) V14-16 Do not be **unequally yoked** together with unbelievers For what fellowship
 The Corinthians were compromising their faith by listening to false teachers

V) Paul begins by speaking of **inappropriate alliances**, calling it **unequal yoking**
IMPORTANT

VI) He is not condemning **contact with non-Christians**, or else we could not evangelize
 1 Co 5:9-10 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to **go out of the world**

VII) Rather, he is writing concerning the **entering in to alliances** that are not in the Lord
FIRST

VIII) He illustrates **inappropriate relationships** by speaking of a **donkey** and an **ox**

IX) V14 Do not be **unequally yoked** together with unbelievers
 Do not marry (date) unbelievers, using the illustration of unequal yoking
 Dt 22:10 Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.
 Donkeys and oxen were not yoked together: Different pace, height, weight
WHY NOT?

X) The work would not be effective because they are not of **the same nature**
 An ox is clean and may be offered to God, a donkey is unclean, and may not be
APPLICATION

XI) Christians are to **only date** and **marry** other Christians

I) 1 Co 7:39 A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but **he must belong to the Lord.**

II) Men and women are **unequally yoked** when one is a believer and the other isn't
 Dt 7:3-4 Nor shall you make **marriages** with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For **they will turn your sons** away from following Me, **to serve other gods**; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

EXAMPLE

III) As a young man, Solomon prayed for wisdom, and God granted his prayer
 1 Ki 3:12 (God said) **I will do what you have asked.** I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be

SADLY

IV) Scripture records Solomon **unwisely** entered into forbidden marriages
 1 Ki 11:1-4 King Solomon, however, **loved many foreign women** besides Pharaoh's daughter --Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You **must not intermarry** with them, because they will **surely turn your hearts after their gods.**" Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and **his wives led him astray.** As Solomon grew old, **his wives turned his heart after other gods**, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

SECOND

V) V14 For what fellowship has **righteousness** with **lawlessness** (unrighteousness)
 Those who love the Lord cannot compromise their faith and accept lawlessness
 This informs us when it comes to the unrighteous culture we live in

VI) We live in this world but do not let the world conform us into its philosophy
 We do not let the opinions and immoral current dictate our beliefs
 We do our best to make our decisions based on God's word, as we understand it

CONTEMPORARY ILLUSTRATION

VII) What took place in St Paul MN last week should be a great example for us
 A church was invaded by protestors who thought they had a right to do so

VIII) Do they? Do they have that right and how do we respond to it?
 We understand that we have a right to hold differing opinions
 We don't have a right to do is to invade a place of worship to express them

- I) For some, this kind of invasion is legal, but is in fact against the law
- II) Both federal and state laws protect church worship services from outside interference. The FACE Act is 1994 legislation that protects “Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances” and prohibits violence, threats, intimidation, and property damage targeting individuals seeking or providing reproductive health services, as well as individuals at places of religious worship—the law is enforced by the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation and carries criminal penalties including up to 11 years imprisonment for violent conduct and fines up to \$250,000.

I WAS ASKED

- III) How would I respond to an invasion? First, we would call the police
Then I would try to keep us calm, try to reason with them and if unsuccessful, I would ask you to pray. If it got out of hand, I would **most likely** ask the women and any children to leave and ask our men who desired to remain behind. At that point the protestors would have the opportunity of being escorted from the building

THIRD

- IV) V14 What communion has light with darkness
Light represents righteousness, and darkness speaks of evil
They do not ex-exist: once the light is turned on, darkness flees
- V) Light does not co-habit with darkness, but rather by its nature exposes it
The Corinthians are to walk in the light because they are children of light
1 Th 5:5 You are all **children of the light** and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

FOURTH

- VI) V15 And what accord has Christ and **Belial** (good for nothing; wicked; worthless)
Believers do not accept as normal and right the sinful things of this world
- VII) The spirit of this age is satanic and cultivates the culture that rejects God
It has produced and maintained influence in the lives of humanity
Jn 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- VIII) As Christians, we have **nothing in common** with the devil
Satan is our enemy, and he hates us and desires to destroy us

I) We are worshipers of God and the world rejects the things of the Lord
Our response is simple: reject his influence and live for the Lord
Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

FIFTH

II) This also applies to a believer and an unbeliever (business partnerships)
Any fully committed believer knows that their ethics are not compatible

SIXTH

III) V16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols
Every Christian knows that they are God's temple and do not practice idolatry
This reminds them of his teaching in 1 Co about food offered to idols
1 Co 10:14 Therefore my beloved, flee from idolatry

IV) V16 You are the temple of the **living God**
The **living God** dwells in us, in contrast to the idols worshipped by unbelievers

V) V17-18 Therefore come out from among them and be separate says the Lord
Be separated from the world and *unto* God
Separate **from the world** (values, goals, standards) that tempts us, and turn *to* God

VI) We separate ourselves from the world and are separated unto God
Love God with everything in you, and seek Him daily
Jas 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.