

MESSAGE NOTES: 2 Corinthians 11

2 Corinthians 11:2-4

"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. ³But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough."

D. A. Carson - "The appeal to limitless toleration...presupposes the greatest evil is to hold a strong conviction that certain things are true and their contraries are false... But we have no right to treat as optional anything God has said."

Worldview Chart	Christianity	Modern Critical Theory
Who am I?	A creature in God's image	A member of various social groups locked in a struggle for dominance.
Fundamental problem?	Sin	Oppression
How problem is solved?	Redemption through Jesus Christ	Activism & Solidarity
Primary moral duty?	Glorify God	Dismantling unjust systems & structures
How do I know truth?	Revelation & Experience	Lived experience

2 Corinthians 11:12-15

"And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

"Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches."

William Temple - "The principal of sacrifice is that we choose to do or to suffer what apart from our love we should not choose to do or to suffer."

2 Corinthians 11:29

"Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?"

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- Besides the holidays, what is your favorite aspect of the winter season?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 11:1-33**

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. Considering the passage as a whole, what do you think Paul was "jealous" of (verse 2) regarding the Corinthian church and the "Super Apostles" who had been influencing them?
3. When, if ever, is it appropriate for believers to "cut the ground from under those" who promote false teaching? (verse 12) How can we know if someone is a "false teacher," or if we just happen to disagree with them on a minor point?
4. For what purpose does Paul list his "boasts" in verses 22-29? What is he trying to prove in this part of the passage?
5. If Paul were alive today, do you think the Church at large would like him? Or do you think, like the Corinthians, he would be seen as "weak"? (verses 21, 30)
6. What does this passage teach us about suffering and weakness as it relates to God? How can we "boast of the things that show our weakness"? (verse 30)
7. Like Paul, we all have friends who claim to be Christians but are negatively influenced by beliefs that do not line up with Scripture. Do you think we have a responsibility to speak about these beliefs? What do you think Paul would say?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.