

I. Recap: Verses 1-4

A. **2 Cor 11:1 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.**

1. Paul sees defending himself as foolishness, but necessary here to remove room for some Corinthians to gravitate toward false teachers.

B. **2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you* *asa* chaste virgin to Christ.**

1. Friend of the Bridegroom Ministry Paradigm (**Matt 9:15, John 3:29**)
 - a. We are the Bride of Christ, yet functionally when we minister to the people of God we stand as a friend of the Bridegroom loving what He loves (His bride). We have the joy of hearing what is on His heart concerning His bride.
 - b. Our only job in this place is to create a context where the Bride and the Bridegroom can experience intimacy. Then we get out of the way.
 - c. Leaders must never compete for the attention or loyalty of Jesus' bride.

C. **2 Cor 11:3-4 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. 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!**

1. **"As the serpent deceived eve"** - By getting her to receive a wrong view of God. The serpent depicted God as guarding His own status.
2. Paul's concern is that in a similar manner false teachers would distort the way that these Corinthian believers see and relate to Jesus by preaching a different gospel.

II. Paul begins to defend his apostolicity

A. **2 Cor 11:5 For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles.**

1. Though the apostolic office is equal the people were different and Paul was of first class competency, and His labor was among the most difficult of the apostles.

B. **2 Cor 11:6 Even though *I am* untrained in speech, yet *I am* not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.**

1. “Untrained” - *Idiotes* i.e. a common person as opposed to royalty.
2. Yet in knowledge this was very much the opposite
3. **Manifested**, yet what is more than this contrast is the evidence of Paul’s life and character among the people.

III. Paul continues by defending His life and character among the people

A. **2 Cor 11:7-9 Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them* to minister to you. And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*.**

1. “Robbed other churches” He says this because those in Macedonia were poorer than those in Corinth.

IV. Why Paul is defending his ministry

A. **2 Cor 11:10-11 As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!**

B. **2 Cor 11:12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.**

1. Paul’s reason here for boasting is so that doubt being casted on Paul’s authority would not be an opportunity for false teachers to be received in his place.

C. **2 Cor 11:13-15 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**

Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

1. Even as Satan puts on the appearance of an angel of light, so it is that his ministers put on the appearance of ministers of the true gospel.
2. Their fruit will be evaluated before God and they will be accountable for it.
3. Although the false teachers here probably added to the gospel and the false prophets of Matt 7 subtract from the gospel (by failing to give the call of extravagant response of surrender to the gospel) there is a comparison to draw here that their fruit will be tested by God.
4. **Matt 7:13-16** “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. “Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. “Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits...