

PAUL'S FEAR FOR THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH  
II COR. 11:1-6

Introduction:

- A. Paul states in verse 3 that he has a fear concerning the church.
  - 1. "But I fear."
  - 2. fear = phobeomai - to fear, to be afraid.
  
- B. He did not fear them but what might happen to them.
  - 1. They did not regard his advise very highly. v1
  - 2. folly = aphrosune = destitute of sound principles.
  
- C. What specifically did Paul fear?
  - 1. Their relationship to Christ would be hindered.
  - 2. The truth of God corrupted.

I. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CHURCH TO CHRIST. V2

- A. "For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy."
  - 1. zelos = zeal, to be jealous, to have a passion for another.
  - 2. This was godly jealousy, it was not a fear for Paul but for the church.
  
- B. "for I have espoused you to one husband."
  - 1. espoused = armozo - to fit, to join, of marrying or giving in marriage.
  - 2. It is not critical to the interpretation whether Paul means engaged or married.
    - a. Exogamous    b. Monogamous    c. Polyagomous
    - d. Monogamous.
  - 3. The emphasis is on one husband.
  - 4. We must not mix figures of speech.
  - 5. "Bride of Christ," "Body of Christ."
  
- C. "that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

1. present = paristemi - to cause to stand beside.
2. chaste = hagnos = holy, sacred, undefiled.
3. "to Christ," not to any other.

## II. PAUL FEARED THAT THE CHURCH WOULD BE CORRUPTED. v3b

A. "So your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

1. minds = noema = the product of the action of the nous, purpose, that which is thought out.
2. corrupted = phtheiro - to spoil.
3. simplicity = aplotes = singleness, plainness, always opposite to duplicity.

B. The manner of their temptation. v3a.

1. "as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtility."
2. beguiled = eksapatao - to cheat, to deceive.
3. subtility = panourgia - unscrupulous conduct, villiany, tricks.
4. "as the serpent," sophisticated arguments.

C. Who would do such a thing?

1. v13-15.

## III. THE MESSAGE THAT WOULD CORRUPT THE CHURCH. v4

A. "preaching another Jesus, whom we have not preached."

1. It would be complicated, not simple.
2. This was the same historical Jesus.
3. It was a change in his work.
4. "one Lord," "One Mediator."

B. "receiving another spirit, which ye have not received."

1. Eph 4:4, "There is one body, and one spirit."
2. How to identify the true Spirit?
  - a. Speaks of Jesus Christ.
  - b. Never contradicts the Bible.

- C. "accepting another gospel which ye have not accepted."
  - 1. The gospel is something they accepted, not did.
  - 2. Paul identified the gospel. I Cor. 15:1-4.
  - 3. Paul warned the Galatians about another gospel.
    - a. Gal. 1:6-9.

#### IV. PAUL'S INFERIORITY TO THE FALSE APOSTLES. v5

- A. Paul refers to them as super-apostles. v5
  - 1. "For I suppose I was not one whit behind the very chiefest of apostles."
  - 2. For I consider not myself a single bit inferior to those surpassingly superior apostles of yours.
- B. He was rude in speech! v6
  - 1. "For though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge."
  - 2. idiots, = a private citizen, opp. to one in a public station; as individual, opp. to the many; one who has no professional knowledge, whether of politics or any other subject, as we say, a layman. Then gen., un-informed, ignorant.
- C. Paul had been open in his life-style.
  - 1. "but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things."
  - 2. At all times we have made known to you the full truth.

#### V. ARE WE SUBJECT TO THE SAME TEMPTATIONS?

- A. We have the same relationship, as a church.
  - 1. We have been espoused to one husband.
  - 2. Does this have meaning to us?

- B. We have the same truths.
  - 1. They may be corrupted.
  - 2. The same, Jesus, the same gospel, the same Spirit.
  
- C. We have the same flesh.
  - 1. Our flesh can fail.
  - 2. Our flesh cannot be trusted.
  
- D. We have the same potentials for good.
  - 1. Did they do good?
  - 2. They had some good members.
  - 3. They were willing to learn and change.
  
- E. We have the same potentials for evil.
  - 1. Everything is present here for us to become as the Corinthians.