

2 Corinthians 11:1-15 Father of the Bride!

One of my favorite Actors of all time is Jimmy Stewart. One of my favorite films of his is *Take her she is mine*

A) Jimmy Stewart stars as an **over protective** father who's daughter Sandra Dee - goes off to study abroad in Paris

B) In the film Stewart follows his daughter from one place to the next seeking to protect her from pp he perceives as wanting to take advantage of her.

C) Great film – **I laughed and I cried and being** the father of two daughters I could definitely relate to Jimmy's fears and concerns.

Well here in 2 Corinthians 11 Paul identifies himself to the Church in Corinth as a father.

A) As a father he has found the perfect guy for his daughter to marry – Jesus

B) **He has betrothed her to Christ** – and his Job as a Father is to present her as a Chaste or pure Virgin to Jesus on their wedding day.

C) Unlike Jimmy Stewart Paul is not being over protective- but he has some very real concerns about those who would seek to take advantage of her.

D) Ch.10-13 Paul is dealing with false teachers who were seeking to undermine his Ministry.

1) And High Jack the Church.

E) **They boasted in their accomplishments** and they have been trying to get Paul to boast in his

1) **Knowing that he wouldn't measure up to them on a human scale.**

RD V. 1-15

Three things we want to note from this passage today!

#1 There is a simplicity in the gospel that needs to be protected. V.2-4

#2 Satan is a seducer who disguises himself as an angel of light. V. 13-15

#3 A true minister of the gospel will make sacrifices because of love. V. 5-12

#1 There is a simplicity in the gospel that needs to be protected. V.2-4

In verses 2 and 3, Paul presents himself as the **“Father of the Bride.”** Jealous for them with a godly Jealousy.

A) On a human level Jealousy is such a destructive thing- perhaps the most vicious and destructive quality in the world today.

B) It has been properly called, "the green-eyed monster." Jealousy is an angry, strong, powerful emotion that refuses to tolerate a rival.

1) It is one of the most frequent causes for broken homes, broken hearts and broken lives!

C) Yet amazingly, God declares in the book of Exodus, **"I the Lord your God am a jealous God."** Exodus 20:5

1) All through the Scriptures there is this emphasis upon the jealousy of God.

There is such thing as godly Jealousy – what is the difference.

A) False jealousy is always selfish; it is concerned about my feelings.

Aa) It is possessive; it wants to control another person.

B) A godly jealousy, on the other hand, is one that arises from a deep passion for the welfare of another.

1) It becomes careless of self, and it is always manifested in a tenderness & a thoughtfulness about someone else.

C) Paul likens his jealousy to that of a father who has betrothed his daughter to a young bridegroom.

Big moment in a Dad's life when he gives his daughter away in marriage.

A) He doesn't necessarily look forward to it – but there is a sense of honor in the moment.

B) I know of a dad who walked his daughter down the aisle – got to the front paused – the minister asked – is there anyone who objects to this union – without hesitation the father – standing there with his daughter looking beautiful in her dress – blurted out – **I do – I am just not ready for this!** –

C) I am sure there have been many dads who have shared in that sentiment.

In Paul's day, it was the responsibility of the father to ensure that his daughter was a virgin on her wedding day.

A) If she wasn't, he would be put to shame.

B) Thus, as the spiritual father of the church at Corinth, it was Paul's responsibility to

make sure they retained their purity.

1) that they weren't seduced by those who sought to lure them away from the simplicity of the gospel. { Of Christ

Pause { Observation

C) This is a rather startling analogy to use about these Corinthians, for we recall the picture Paul painted in

1 Corinthians 6 of what they had come out of.

D) There Paul tells us that some of them had been adulterers, immoral people, homosexuals, thieves, drunkards, robbers and cut-throats.

"Such were some of you," he said 1 Corinthians 6:11

E) And yet now he says, "I have desired to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

1) That is a wonderful commentary on the tremendous reality of forgiveness of sins.

E) This is a great passage to use with people who struggle to believe that God can forgive their past.

1) God took these pp who came from this sordid and ugly background?

F) God has cleansed them so they are like a chaste and lovely virgin, and he longs to present them to Christ in that way."

He was protective of them as a Father!

A) Protective as a Father – Mason Yasin!

B) Rules to date my daughter!

C) Paul is not being overprotective!

1) There is a "clear and present danger" here for the Corinthian saints.

D) Both history and experience demonstrate the danger of spiritual seduction. { **Started in the garden!**

Eve was deceived by Satan disguised as a snake

A) Word deceived is actually Seduced

B) Seduce = to lead or draw away, as from principles, faith, or allegiance: **Dictionary.com**

C) Seduction was of a Spiritual nature: He wasn't offering her drugs or alcohol – wasn't a carnal appeal really – but it was a spiritual one

D)Eve you will be more like God!

That is what Satan does – his target is aimed at the Simplicity of the gospel.

A)There is a simplicity in Christ – that Satan tries to destroy!

B) Interesting point that here: Paul is equating their purity as a Betrothed Bride to the simplicity of their faith in Jesus.

1)That to complicate their faith was equivalent to losing their purity as a bride.

C)The Simplicity of Christ!

1)The word simplicity in the greek means single as opposed to double.

D)So when Paul talks about simplicity in Christ he is talking about a single-mindedness in faith and loyalty.

Marks of the Simplicity of Christ!

Saved by Grace through faith alone! Ephesians 2:8,9

A)Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves

He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;
Philippians 1:6

B)Jesus is committed to seeing this through – my confidence for making it is in His ability.

Abiding in Jesus results in a fruit bearing life that glorifies God. John 15:1-8

C)Abide means to continue with – It is a word that speaks of the daily relationship.

Ray Stedman is helpful here:

When you ask yourself just what is that simplicity that he is talking about, the answer from everywhere in the Word of God is: The daily companionship of the Lord Jesus. How many of you sense that Christ is yours all day long?

How many of you reckon upon that, think about that, live out of that relationship and out of that sense of the expectation of his presence?

We often say, and rightly so, that Christianity is not a creed, it is a relationship; it is living with a Person. That is the simplicity that is in Christ. The danger that we constantly face, even in a church like this where the Word of God is taught, is that we get involved in the things about Christ and fail to live in a relationship with Christ.

Abiding is simply cultivating that relationship being planted and connected – more planted and connected – more fruit – More God is glorified

A)It is really as simple as that! Karl Barth Jesus loves...

B)But Satan is seeking to destroy that simplicity – through Duplicity -

C)adding things to our faith – Jesus plus this - Jesus and that.

V.4 Another Jesus – different spirit – different gospel

A)**Always attacks the the Deity of Christ** -- Reduce Jesus to being just a man – great man – but just a man – many great spiritual leaders

B)Attacks the work of Christ – It is great that you believe in Jesus –

1)But you also need to do this and that – Legalism

C)Appeals to my ego – I earned that blessing

1)**Grace says – Blessing was in spite of me**

D)We often think today that Christ is a part of our lives. He's maybe an important part but not all.

We need Christ plus **philosophy**...we need Christ plus **psychology**...we need Christ **plus ritual... ceremony**...

Christ plus some **miraculous experience** or Christ plus some **mystical intuition**...or Christ plus some **bodily self-denial**.

We need to do something to hurt ourselves in order to gain merit with God

Satan loves to see us go down that road – ruining our purity – getting sidetracked

My observation as a Pastor for 20 plus years

A)Rarely seen – someone who was really walking with the Lord – suddenly go back into the world

B)What I have seen is pp who were walking with the Lord – suddenly get sidetracked

1)Jesus plus something else – More serious – deeper

C)When they couldn't live up to that standard – condemnation set in -

1)Then it became easier to indulge the flesh –

2) Quit trying – no use

D) Exactly what Satan hopes would happen!

It is so subtle –

#2 Satan is a seducer who disguises himself as an angel of light. V. 13-15

A) See these deceivers were like a bunch of Hells Angels riding up on their Harley's looking all mean and bad – dirty – Snatch his daughter and ride off

B) These guys were smooth talkers – who disguised themselves as the real deal

1)) They looked like real ministers – impressive orators – who commanded a lot of respect for their speaking skills.

C) That is what he does – Mormons – family

D) Near death – bright light -

These guys looked impressive – Commanded big honorarium's seemingly made them more credible

{ Practice started in Greece }

A) "A lot of ppl are paying good money to go listen to that guy – he must be alright" - no just a lot of rich people are deceived

B) Don't be deceived by that

C) This was the knock these guys had on Paul

These false teachers were using that to say – the reason why Paul didn't take anything was

1) Paul knew that his teaching was of low caliber,

2) that his message wasn't worth much,

3) that he gave the gospel away because nobody would pay for it,

4) that he was not really an apostle.

That is what Paul addresses in this middle section which leads us to point #3 True minister will Sacrifice for love Rd v. 5-12

B) This is where Paul's sarcasm kicks in

5 For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. { referencing these false apostles –

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.

I might not be able to talk like these guys – I might not be as smooth and trained and Polished – but I know My Stuff – and I know my Lord

7 Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?

When Paul was ministering in Corinth for a year and half – he didn't take anything from them. -

The “super apostles” were exceedingly wealthy from the exorbitant speaking fees they charged.

Paul, on the other hand, charged nothing. “Is it because I haven't taken money from you that you esteem me so lightly?” he asks.

8 I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.

9 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.

10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

Due to charges launched against his integrity, he refused any money from the prosperous church.

A) Instead, he depended on missionary support from other Churches

B) Paul in this paragraph is brilliantly exposing the true heart of these false teachers

1) They are only in it for themselves

C) A True minister doesn't look for what He can get from people but what He can give to people!

D) Heart of Christ – He came not to be served- but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.

E) Paul's practice was in accord with that of Christ himself. His preaching for free was consistent with the free grace of God:

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake

he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich”

2 Corinthians 8:9

Keep it Simple -

Rejoice today in the simplicity of Christ