

Avoiding False Teachers

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

A. The Fight (11:1-2)

1. The purity of the message matters

We must sincerely believe the truth

2. The purity of the church matters

**Paul desired to present the church to Christ with
purity**

1 John 4:1, 2 Peter 2:1

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B. The Problem (11:3-5)

- 1. From the beginning there has been the opportunity to be led astray by temptation (v 3)**
- 2. Three ways that people allow themselves to be deceived (v 4)**
 - a. By another “Jesus”**
 - b. By another spirit**
 - c. By another “gospel”**
- 3. Be careful of following an authority figure (v 5)**

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C. Three Clues (11:6-15)

1. Truth is more important than style (v 6)

Would we rather have message or method?

Would we rather have discernment over delivery?

Would we rather have power over persona?

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C. Three Clues (11:6-15) - continued

2. Where is the focus, giving or getting? (vv 7-12)

- a. Paul willingly sacrificed in order to preach the gospel to them free of charge (v 7)**
- b. Other churches provided for his ministry (v 8)**
- c. He went without so he could give (v 9)**
- d. He had no regrets of the sacrifices he made (v 10)**
- e. His sacrifice demonstrated his love for them (vv 11-12)**

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C. Three Clues (11:6-15) - continued

3. Evil often wins by twisting the truth just enough

(vv 13-15)

a. To make evil appealing

b. To cause doubt

c. To persuade those easily persuaded

d. To slowly but ultimately lead away from God

Galatians 1:7-11

Defending The Message

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

**Your testimony should leave no doubt about
your faith.**

Proverbs 26:5

Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

I. Compassion That Rises Above Criticism (11:16-21a)

2 Corinthians 11:16-21

16 I say again, let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.

17 That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.

18 Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.

19 For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.

I. Compassion That Rises Above Criticism (11:16-21a)

- A. Paul's assessment of what is at stake (v 16)
Rejecting him would mean rejecting the gospel**

- B. Let's compare spiritual pedigrees (vv 17-18)**

- C. An attention getting step (v 19)**

I. Compassion That Rises Above Criticism

(11:16-21a)

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 3:19

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

I. Compassion That Rises Above Criticism (11:16-21a)

2 Corinthians 11:20-21

20 For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.

21 I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

I. Compassion That Rises Above Criticism

(11:16-21a)

D. Look at what you are putting up with from these false apostles (v 20)

“bring you into bondage”

Galatians 2:4

And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

E. Look at what you are receiving from me (v 21)

II. Character That Causes A Contrast (11:21b-23a)

2 Corinthians 11:21b-23a

21 I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more;

A. Four things that Paul had in “common” with these “apostles”

All carnal (fake faith)

B. One thing that separated Paul from them

The spiritual (true faith)

III. Commitment That Confirms Faith

(11:23b-33)

A. Look at what Christ has brought me through
(vv 23b-27)

2 Corinthians 11:23b-27

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

III. Commitment That Confirms Faith

(11:23b-33)

**A. Look at what Christ has brought me through
(vv 23b-27)**

2 Corinthians 11:23b-27 - continued

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

III. Commitment That Confirms Faith

(11:23b-33)

B. Look at what Christ lets me do for you (v 28)

2 Corinthians 11:28

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

III. Commitment That Confirms Faith

(11:23b-33)

C. Look at the perspective that Christ gives me
(vv 29-31)

2 Corinthians 11:29-31

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

III. Commitment That Confirms Faith

(11:23b-33)

D. Look at the protection that God gives me
(vv 32-33)

2 Corinthians 11:32-33

32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

**Am I A True Follower
or A False Follower?**

