

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11:1-4

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WITH THIS MIND

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

Part 1

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:
Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text; **2nd Corinthians 11:1-4**

Back In The Opening Verses of Chapter 10, we came to a most useful reality regarding the Christian life – We're **at War** & We're **in the War** !!!

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** casting down **arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself against the **knowledge** of God, bringing **every thought** into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Our Mind is The Battlefield

2 Cor. 11:1-4

Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly - - and indeed you do bear with me. **2** For I am **jealous** for you with **godly jealousy**. For I have **betrothed** you to one husband, that I may **present** you as a **chaste virgin** to Christ. **3** 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. **4** 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!

Rom. 12:1-2

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **(#1)** **present** your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And **(#2)** **do not** be conformed to this world, but **(#3)** **be** transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you **(#4)** may **prove** what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism of 1647

"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

WITH THIS MIND

1.) **Increasing Joy - Greater Assurance** v. 1-3

1a.) **God's love is a possessing love** v. 1-2a

Oh, that you would bear with me in a little **folly** (*silliness, recklessness*) - - and indeed you do bear with me. **2**
For I am **jealous for** you **with godly jealousy**.

“For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.” – **2 Corinthians 10:18**

Paul is in a hard place. He wanted to express his love for the Corinthian church by reminding them of his labor, works and toil on their behalf, but then they would accuse him of boasting. If he said nothing at all about his commitment to them – then the legalist, the judaizers would say “see he has done nothing for you guys – he’s all words.”

What Was Paul to Do?

He would use a common illustration to prove his love to them, for them...

He Would Boast – Having Been Forced To.

*“Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly - -
and indeed you do bear with me.”*

2 For I am **jealous for** (*not of*) you **with godly jealousy**.

The word “jealous” or “jealousy” to us usually **suggests a negative**.

(Human jealousy is an ugly and destructive thing)

In human terms, the closest we can get to this “holy” or “godly” jealousy is the type of jealousy a husband has for his wife or for his kids.

(1) He will defend his wife against advancements from another.

(2) He will protect his children against harm to the point of self sacrifice.

But God, who is Perfect, Perfect in Love,

Perfect in Righteousness - - is Also Perfect in Jealousy

Exodus 20:5

you shall not bow down to them (idols) nor serve them.

For I, the LORD your God, am a **jealous** God,

Not selfish. Not tyrannical, But Jealous for our Welfare – idols hurt us.

Jealous grk: ζηλόω **ze’lo’o**, *dzay-lo’-o*; to have a warmth or feeling of deep passion. The word is so strong it connotes a lust, a form of envy in the positive sense that is of God (holy), an infectious zeal for the well-being of another.

Jealousy grk: ζήλος **theo ze’los**, *dzay’-los*; to be increasing in heat, increasing in favor. increasing in protection, a full commitment.

God’s Jealousy for Us was Put on Public Display at Calvary.

??? But Why and for What ???

Your Creator God built into you the sovereignty of choice. You have a free will to do with it as you so desire. The willing Sacrifice of Jesus Christ communicated His love for those who had rejected Him. In human terms – that make no sense. I say – “Let those who reject me rot. Let them die a slow death being nibbled to death by a duck. But God says – I am Jealous **FOR** them. Not **OF** us.

2 Corinthians 5:19a

That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which **ARE** God's.

Matt. 13:45-46

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a Merchant seeking beautiful pearls, **46** who, when He had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that He had and bought it.

His Love For Us Affects Us.

#1 - By taking possession of our person.

#2 - By elevating us up out of ourselves.

#3 - By instilling within us a future.

Song of Solomon 2:4

He brought me to the banqueting house,
And his **banner** (*flaunting, boasting, pride and joy*) over me is love.

Zephaniah 3:17b

He will **quiet** you (*rest, cause to relax, to be at ease*) with His love,

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.

~ **Augustine**

Rom. 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WITH THIS MIND

INCREASING JOY - GREATER ASSURANCE

1b.) God's love is a **discriminating** love v. 2b

For I have **betrothed** you to **one husband**,

Betrothed grk: ἀρμόζω **harmozo**, *har-mod'-zo*; to speak into the ear or to join together by word. to declare "sanctified" for the affection of a woman. to woo by announcing or proclaiming your affection for a woman. to tell her, to "promise" your life to the woman of your commitment.

In Jesus' day, betrothal was a legal contract/covenant between the father of the bride and the groom. Once signed, only a divorcement proceeding with the local synagogue could break it. The father was responsible for overseeing the engagement & to protect his daughter and the family.

BTW = the "dating" (the get to know you stage) began after they were sanctified in a promise of "marriage".

When the groom-to-be would receive the bride-to-be's - "yes",
The father of the bride would declare her to be "**sanctified**" or **spoken for**.

Joined, One, United in a Promise

Paul reminds them that being a Christian is an act of the will that has decided to love God and to give ones' self to God.

First, the father of the groom made the arrangements for the marriage and paid the bride price. The timing of the arrangement varied. Sometimes it occurred when both children were small, and at other times it was no less than a year before the marriage itself. It was not uncommon for the bride and groom to meet on their wedding day. The **second step**, which occurred only after a year or more had passed, was the “taking of the bride.” The bridegroom would go to the home of the bride in order to bring her to his fathers’ house. In connection with this step, two other things should be noted. *First*, it was the father of the groom who determined the timing. *Second*, prior to the groom’s leaving to fetch the bride, it was required of him to already have a place prepared for her as their abode. This was followed by the **third step**, the wedding ceremony, to which a select group, sometimes just a few would be invited. Prior to the wedding ceremony, the bride underwent a ritual immersion for ritual cleansing before consummation. Once consummation occurred, the **fourth** step, the marriage feast, would follow and last for seven days. Many other friends would be invited to the feast. In the Marriage of the Lamb all four of these steps of the Jewish wedding ceremony are evident.

Eph. 5:22-28,30-31

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. **24** Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. **28** So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself, **30** For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. **31** “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **32** This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

The Truth About Arranged Marriages Is – **They Most Often Work !**

Because The Couple Decides to **“Love One Another Till Death Do Us Part”**

Jesus Christ is Desiring (not demanding)
that You and I Love Him.

To do that, you and I would have to get to know some things about Him.

Who is He? // Why should I Care to Know Him?
What is He about? // How do I get to know Him?

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<<

End of Study

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