

A SINCERE AND PURE DEVOTION TO CHRIST

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness.

Do bear with me!

- vs 1

For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

— Ephesians 5:25-27

Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;
it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure"

For the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

- Revelation 19:7-9

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God...

- Exodus 20:4-5

You shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God

- Exodus 34:14

You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you, for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God — lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

- Deuteronomy 6:14-15

For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

- 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

"From the time of the Fall to the present day, men and women have frequently succumbed to the deceptive devices of the devil. Christians are especially open to the kind of cunning deceit that combines the language of faith and religion with the content of self-interest and flattery. We like to be told how special we are, how wise, how blessed. We like to have our Christianity shaped less by the cross than by triumphalism or rules or charismatic leaders or subjective experience. And if this shaping can be coated with assurances of orthodoxy, complete with cliché, we may not detect the presence of the arch-deceiver, nor see that we are being weaned away from 'sincere and pure devotion to Christ' to a 'different gospel."

"Zeal is a colossal waste of energy if its aim is anything other than Christ. Spirituality is a sham if Christ is not its substance. Passion, no matter how intense or well-intended, is a meaningless vapor in the human soul if it is not awakened by the beauty and splendor of Christ and has for its goal the glory and praise of Christ. There simply is no value in religious activity that is not christological at its core."

Sam Storms

For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

- Galatians 1:6-9

"One frightening feature of contemporary Christianity is the ease with which professing believers embrace or at least endorse so-called 'gospels' that are anything but good news (though they make it sound as such). Whether it be the 'gospel' of self-esteem or the 'gospel' of personal peace or the 'gospel' of perpetual health or the 'gospel' of financial prosperity or the 'gospel' of the power of positive thinking, otherwise well-meaning Christians abandon spiritual discernment, ignore the biblical text, and fall prey to religious hucksters and purveyors of false hope."

- Sam Storms

"The second person of the Trinity, Jesus is eternal God. All things were and are created by Him, through Him, and for Him. Not only are all things created by Him. All things are sustained by Him. He is the incarnate Word of God who, without ceasing to be God, became flesh and dwelt among man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He is both fully God and fully man, the God-man.

He came on a mission to save sinners. He lived a sinless life, the life we couldn't live. He died in accordance with the Scriptures as our substitute sin-bearer. In this, He revealed God's love and preserved God's justice. He was buried, rose bodily on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and sits at the right hand of God the Father, ruling and reigning as our triumphant, exalted King and interceding to God the Father on our behalf as our perfect High Priest and Advocate until He returns."

- CrossPointe Peachtree City Core Beliefs

"The third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is indeed a person, not merely a power. Ascribed to Him are intelligence, a will, and affections. The Holy Spirit is eternal God. He was actively involved in the creation of the world. He qualifies men for various creative tasks, giving them knowledge and ability. Of greater importance is His work in redemption. He prepared a body for Jesus, enabling Jesus to become a sacrifice for sin. He anointed Jesus at his baptism, preparing Jesus for the work of ministry.

He inspired the Scriptures, without which we would have no special revelation of God. He began building and continues to build the Church. He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. By Him, men are justified, sanctified, and made clean. He baptizes all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling them, sealing them for the day of redemption, and guiding them into all truth as He points them to the glory of Christ."

CrossPointe Peachtree City Core Beliefs

"The gospel is the good news that while we were dead in our sin and unable to save ourselves, Jesus Christ died for us, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, enabling us to enjoy making much of Him forever. Our salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone. To be justified by grace alone means that we do absolutely nothing to merit our own acquittal. To be justified by faith alone means that we believe and trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone as our means of justification.

Jesus took our sin upon himself, and, in return, gifts us His perfect, obedient righteousness. With the heart one believes and is justified. To the one who trusts is Jesus Christ alone, his faith is counted as righteousness. This gospel is also the foundation of our confidence in the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom, and the consummation of His purpose for all creation in the new heaven and new earth. This gospel is centered in Christ, is the foundation for the life of the Church, and is our only hope for eternal life; this gospel is not proclaimed if Christ's penal substitutionary death and bodily resurrection are not central to our message."

- CrossPointe Peachtree City Core Beliefs

Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these superapostles. Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.

Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

- Acts 20:29-30

"The wolves in the church that devour sheep do not howl and bare their teeth.

They come in sheep's clothing, smiling, reciting Scripture, full of understanding, promising something more than Christ."

Kent Hughes

"When Satan is at work we never smell sulfur or glance down at a cloven hoof; rather he is sweetness and a congenial, smiling light — until he has control."

Kent Hughes

"The key to gospel fidelity is to know that Christ's sincere and pure devotion to you is far stronger than yours to him. When we were unacceptable and at our worst, he bound himself to us with his covenantal love. Christ's marital fidelity to his bride is on full display at the cross, and it moves his bride to an increasingly sincere and pure devotion."

Gospel Transformation Bible

