TITLE: Safeguarding Your Espousal (Safeguarded from Error)

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 11:1-4

2 Cor. 11:1-4—*Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. 2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

INTRODUCTION

1. **THERE IS AN ELEMENT FIGHTING AGAINST PAUL**

2 Cor. 11:1,2—*Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.*

* He had bypassed them when he traveled to Macedonia (1:16,17)
* Had rebuke them in I Cor. (3:1 You are Carnal, Babies) <misunderstanding>

1. **THERE ARE UNDERCURRECTS OF DECEPTION (UNDERMINING OF THE WORK OF GOD)**

*2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.* (clean, innocent, perfect, pure)

* 6:1 “Workers Together”
* 9:2 “Boasted of your zeal in Macedonia” (visited twice and making 3rd trip)
* What defenses do we have against deception?

Deuteronomy 11:16—*Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived…*

1. **BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF DECEPTION**
2. THE DANGERS ARE REAL & ARE MANY

3 *But I fear, lest by* ***any*** *means*,

2Co 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for **we are not ignorant of his devices**.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

🡪AS LOOSE AND CARELESS AS WE ARE, THE DANGER IS EVER SO REAL.

1. THE DANGERS ARE SUBTLE

🡪VULNERABILITY OF THE FLESH AND CARNAL MIND

🡪SO OFTEN IT IS WHAT THE DEVIL LEAVES OUT IN HIS OFFER THAT WILL DESTROY US.

-New Age Bible Versions: 1) I John 5:7 omitted 2)Phil. 4:13 “Christ” replaced “him”

-“The big print giveth, the small print taketh away!”

🡪MUST WATCH & PRAY!

1. **GLORY IN THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST**

as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (CORRUPT—PINE AWAY, WITHER) (Simplicity –completeness, singleness, purity)

1 Cor 2:2For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

* Satan makes additions to our godly profession that he might draw our attention away from Christ.
* --*though eve was beguiled* 1. (v. t.) To delude 3. to while away; to divert.

1. works to our justification, Faith without works ( which stinks, dead! James 2:20)

2. exceptions to our love

3. detours to our walk

4. dogma to our doctrine(such a stronghold)

5. darkness to our light joy peace Matthew 6:23 ... the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! ( I Peter 2:9 Out of darkness into his marvelous light)

6. distractions to our mission

1. **DON’T BE SO QUICK TO CHASE AFTER ANOTHER (ESPOUSED TO ONE)**
2. **Another PREACHER, JESUS**

4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

know them which labor among us : Paul makes a directly personal plea to the Corinthians   
-to the flock not elders as Tim Titus revelation etc

--**substance or style**???

Tho I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge  
rood: Not "impolite" in English Versions of the Bible ( 2 Corinthians 11:6 (idiotes, `though I lack technical training in rhetoric')

--**accepted in god or exceptional?** Not a whit behind ... Gods ministers are some of his gifts to the church eph 4:12,13... Do we appreciate them and honor properly

--**heart or hirelings**??  
2 Corinthians 12:15 Will gladly spend and be spent for you!

2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy...

1. **ANOTHER SPIRIT**
2. **ANOTHER GOSPEL**

Study the word of god  
--REALstudy of what is there instead of what you want to be told or have been told only looking for confirmation of your preconceptions. Real study allows the word to speak for itself.   
🡪READ, STUDY, MEDITATE, MEMORIZE, BELIEVE