

**Intro:** Picture this! It is your wedding day...You are at the altar guys...or walking down the aisle ladies...and when you get together, the veil is lifted and you see...**THAT'S NOT MY FIANCE!!!!** It is someone totally different!

**That is what Paul is telling the Cor Christians has happened in their church!** The Church is the bride of Christ. Jesus is ready for his bride, but when he lifts the veil...It's not His bride...something awful has happened...mix up!

2 Cor 11:1-15 Pg 821

### **Strength To Hold On To The Truth!**

#### **1. The Promise Of The Church, The Bride of Christ.**

Vs 1-6; 13-15

Paul is using the illustration of a marriage, with himself as the father, the Church as the bride, Jesus as the groom.

- **Promise:** Lit = You were engaged to Christ! (I promised him a beautiful, pure bride!) *Apostle, Father, Founder*  
Lit = Present you = To stand beside and offer up; **Illus:** *Image is father presenting "Who Gives"*
- **Problem:** Lit = Led astray = To deviate from the right path; to be corrupted, ruined or spoiled  
Deceived = To seduce; beguile; deceive!  
Sincere = To be singularly focused; to be pure, not mixed with anything else
- **Process:** Lit = If: If as has in fact taken place...*Someone came and preached something different!*  
They came, and you bought what they were selling!  
Lit = You put up with it = You don't hold yourself back from them...you give yourself to them!  
He is using the language of adultery and unfaithfulness to talk about the Bride!  
**Illus:** *You are engaged to Jesus...but when someone ELSE comes along...you go with them!*
- **People:** Lit = False Apostles: *Pseudo Apostles: Pretend Apostles; Not the real thing!*  
Lit = Deceitful workmen *Guileful; deceitful; To lure you in w snare: Promise, not deliver*  
Lit = Masquerading: *To wear a disguise; to have exterior look, but not in reality*  
Lit = Servants of Satan: *Harsh words...They are serving Satan, seeking to deceive*

And Paul says...You LET them do that to you! I promised you to Jesus, as His pure bride...and then some deceitful people came in, whispered something in your ear...and you went along with them! You ignored all that I had taught you, and you went along with the lies...So that you are now presenting yourself to Jesus...as an faithful bride!

**Illus:** Just like the nation of Israel! Just as they walked away from God...Unfaithful...Idolatry...Adulterous, We Too!

These next couple of verses tell us why Paul was so upset and concerned. He tells the Cor Church...Everything corrupted! WHEN someone (NOT IF) came in and was preaching something different than the truth.

#### **2. The Purity Of The Gospel Paul Preached, And The Corinthians Received!**

VS 4-6

- *You embraced: a Different Jesus, a Different Spirit, A different Gospel!*

You went right along with it! And you have to know he says... It may LOOK like Jesus, Holy Spirit, Gospel...BUT ITS NOT! The Gospel you Accepted Vs 4 = Lit = *the one that you received from me*

- **Paul's Gospel:** 1 Cor 15:1-6 pg 815  
>Christ died for our sins according to Scriptures *Peter: The just for the unjust*  
>he was buried *Not passed out...revived*  
>he was raised on the third day according to Scriptures *Really came back from the dead*  
>appeared to many (500+) *Not a conspiracy, not 12 making it up*

These are the essential elements of the Gospel that Paul preached...Corinthians heard and received

Now, what has happened is, the false apostles came in...and they began to change it...make the gospel...and Jesus...Spirit Something totally different. So different in fact that Paul says...when the Bride's veil is lifted...it's NOT the bride! What the false teachers did was pervert, and contaminate, and change the gospel, and Jesus, and spirit so much... No longer the real thing!

#### **3. The Changes That Pervert The Gospel!**

Vs 4

We look at what happened in Corinth and say, "that's awful" how could they do that, How could they let that happen?" Yet the reality is, it didn't stop with them! That same process continues today! We are still fighting for the true gospel

- **GOSPEL Take Aways** The things they false teachers then...and now...want to remove from the Gospel  
>Lordship = Friend: "The big guy in the sky!" God understands...He's my friend...It's ok how I live  
"Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and NOT do the things I say?"  
>Holiness = Expedience: "I know that's what the Bible SAYS...but that's outdated, I don't agree, Unreasonable  
"Come out from among them and be separate, Be holy because I am holy!"  
>Trials = Peace/Comfort "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for the rest of your life!"  
ALSO says: *"In this world you WILL have trouble...be of good courage, I have overcome!"*  
>Exclusivity = Inclusive It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as sincere, all roads lead to Heaven  
Like saying..."Doesn't matter WHICH bride you marry...as long as you are married!"  
*"I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me!"*

You see, it's not Burger King! You DON'T get to have it YOUR way! You are NOT buying a car, house, choosing options! When you do that...you Pervert gospel, corrupt it...No longer the Gospel: No longer Jesus....Not HS:

When we come to the word of God and the teaching of Jesus...it's NOT a buffet! Pick and choose! Sexuality, Money, NO

- **“Add To’s”** These are the things the false teachers ADD to the truth...so corrupt it..no long the truth! Veil lifted!!!!  
 >Bless You’s God ONLY wants to give you Good! We have been fighting that since the beginning of time!  
 Job...how can you possibly believe that God allowed these thing to come! “Though He SLAY Me!!  
 >Other Options: We think we are negotiating with God, and we have the right at the spiritual buffet to pick n choose  
 >Special Knowledge: Gnostics: See them in Galatians: If you only know what I know! Secret truths of Life  
 JW: Jesus plus Charles Russell’s teachings  
 Mormons: Jesus plus Joseph Smith’s teachings  
 >Special Works: Judaizers: Jesus + Law of Moses  
 Jesus plus working really hard, sacrificing, giving, teaching!!!
- **“JESUS take aways”** These are the things that their world...and ours...wants to remove from Jesus  
 But, if you do that...you have a different Jesus...that is NOT the one of the bible!  
 >Deity: He was a man...but never claimed to be God...if he did he was wrong Taught us how to live  
 >Resurrection: He died...but he never rose again: Doesn’t matter...Good moral teacher  
 >From David, Not God Not REALLY the Messiah, the one promised and prophesied from God...Just a man  
 >Good, But not Perfect: That stuff he taught about sexuality, and money, and forgives....suggestions!  
 He was for his times...but not ours....He doesn’t really understand
- **SPIRIT Changes:** These are the ways we try to change the work of the Spirit of God in our life  
 Q: Is the Spirit at work in your life...the one in your heart...the Spirit of Jesus?  
 >Spirit of this world 1 Cor 12:2 “We received the spirit of God...not the spirit of this world!” Disobedience  
 What spirit controls your heart? Obedience...or Disobedience!  
 >Spirit of knowledge Rom 1:22 “*professing themselves to be wise...became fools!*”  
 What Glasses do you use? Bible see world and knowledge...or Knowledge to see bible  
 >Spirit of Bondage: Rom 8:15: “*Not received the spirit of bondage!*” That’s from the devil  
 2 Co 3:17 “*Where the spirit of the Lord is there is freedom!*”

You see...when you ADD to...Or TAKE AWAY...Or Change...Jesus...the Gospel...The Spirit  
 You don’t have the truth anymore...you have some man made system that is corrupt...and will NEVER save you!  
 You will get married...but NOT to Jesus...You will be bound over to one that HATES, not LOVES!  
 One who has come to steal, and to kill and to destroy you!

A couple of critical questions:

- CONCL: 1. Have you accepted the REAL Gospel? Jesus died for you, was buried, was raised to life, Lives to give you life?  
 If you have never accepted that...or if you have something DIFFERENT...time to make that right  
 That’s very narrow minded of you Pastor...Yes...it is...But it is the truth
2. Have you allowed the world...your own thinking...the Evil One To marry you off to the wrong Groom!  
 Do you find yourself guilty today of  
 >Adding to...  
 >Taking away...  
 From the truth of Jesus, Spirit of God, Gospel  
 So that you are walking a different path?  
 Thought you were going right way...but its’ clear to you...you aren’t

Today is the day to get that right:

- Come accept Jesus
- Come get rid of the “add on’s”
- Come add what you have omitted!

I’m here to pray with you today....You come...  
 Don’t find yourself at the altar with the wrong fiancé!