

“KEEP IT SIMPLE”
2 Corinthians 11:1-6

INTRODUCTION

The Corinthians were falling for a new gospel. Paul told them to hold the line! The gospel doesn't need changing or updating! Unfortunately, many people have an innate desire to change things. Some want to change what is in the Bible or what the Bible means. Even within Christianity many want to give things a new spin or flavor. Some add psychology or new age ideology to the gospel, thinking that it helps meet the needs of the current age. The bottom line is that people are people and Jesus is still savior, so the good news is good enough in every age!

STAY SIMPLE

The apostle Paul told the church to stay simple in 1) Devotion, 2) Doctrine, and 3) Delivery of the message. The church is the chosen bride of Christ. As in weddings at the time of Jesus earthly ministry, He will take His bride to His Father's house (at the rapture). There will be a great feast to celebrate (in the kingdom).

Paul was a caring spiritual father to the Corinthians. **1 Corinthians 4:15**. The Judaizers claimed that the Corinthians needed to do more. This made Christianity needlessly more complicated. That influence changed their devotion to Jesus. More knowledge of God doesn't necessarily mean more devotion to God. Devotion, worship and love are what the Lord wants! Paul discussed the first bride, Eve, as historical fact. Listening to Satan, obviously a false teacher, affected her devotion to God in the Garden of Eden.

COUNTERFEITS

Paul also mentioned 3 counterfeits to be careful of. 1) Another Jesus, 2) A different Spirit, and 3) A different gospel. Groups like the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses have a different Jesus, who is not God in the flesh. The Holy Spirit is the agent of our change, **2 Corinthians 3**. Beware of the sensual spirit! The true gospel includes faith in Jesus, and His shedding of blood on the cross for our atonement. Some downplay the cross and focus on how the gospel will improve our lives. We must aim at holiness and not happiness, however! If we aim for holiness we will have joy in the Lord for eternity! Paul encouraged them to not settle for anything less than the true gospel!

The “most eminent apostles” (**v.5**) were not Peter, James or John, but the Judaizers. Paul stressed that he wasn't a trained speaker for an audience, but only a Bible teacher. While those speakers may be more entertaining, we just need simplicity in the delivery of the gospel.

CONSIDER

The gospel in its original form is perfect and Christ is sufficient, enough for anyone in any situation. Let's not make it more complicated that it really is. Even Jesus in His teachings used the most basic examples such as wheat, soil, seeds, fish, plows, bread, etc. Think back to what it was like when you first received the gospel message. What was your relationship to the Lord like then? Has your devotion been hindered by adding something else to the truth of God? Let's keep it simple!

PRAY.....

- * That the Lord would unite us in prayer for a spiritual awakening in New York State!
- * That our evening of Thanksgiving in November would be a true time of worship for our body.
- * That our Christmas Cantata would affect the hearts of all who see and hear the message of the Savior.