

Homework #14 - *Guarding Our Pure Devotion to Christ*  
II Corinthians 11:1-15

*"But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."*

*--II Corinthians 11:3*

**Day One:**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15. What are the key words?

**Contrasts in Corinthians:** What opposites do you notice in this passage?

2. What is Paul's concern for the Corinthians in 11:3?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. Why is Paul's concern valid, according to 11:4
4. What are the different things the Corinthians "put up with"? (11:4)

What does it mean to "put up with" something or someone?

5. Read Genesis 3:1-6. How was Satan's question in 3:1 misleading, compared to what God actually said in Genesis 2:16-17?

How did the serpent lure Eve into disobedience? (3:4-6)

6. How are we deceived, according to 2 Corinthians 11:3?

Explain the relationship between our thoughts and deception:

How does this relate to 10:5?

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Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Has God ever shown you that your thoughts about Him were not correct in some area? Or have you ever held false ideas about following Christ? Explain how the Lord gave you clarity in those situations:

How does knowing you can be deceived impact what you think or allow into your mind?

## **Day Two**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-4. How does Paul describe his feelings for the Corinthians in 11:2?
2. Read Exodus 34:14. What can you learn from this verse about God?

How do Paul's words reflect God's heart?

3. What illustration is given for our relationship to Christ in 2 Cor. 11:2?
4. What is the goal of the enemy's deception, according to 11:3b?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

5. How would you describe a "pure and sincere devotion to Christ"? What would that look like in a person's life?
6. What do the following passages say about our relationship to God?

Hosea 2:19-20.

Ephesians 5:25-32

Revelation 19:7-8

7. Read Proverbs 4:23. What are we told to do in this verse and why?

What do you think it means to "guard your heart"?

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Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. How does knowing that God sees you as His bride influence your sincere devotion to Him?

### **Day Three**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:4-6. What mocking name does Paul give the false teachers in 11:5?
2. What is Paul's realistic description of himself in 11:6?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. What do you think Paul means when he writes, "I do have knowledge"? (See last week's verses: 2 Cor. 10:5 and Jeremiah 9:23-24, and also Philippians 3:10.)

How did Paul demonstrate this "knowledge"? (11:6b)

What are some of the ways you think he made this knowledge "perfectly clear"?

4. What can we assume the super-apostles have in their favor? (11:6)  
What can we assume they do not have?
5. Read Galatians 1:6-9. What were the Galatians doing and why? (1:6-7)
6. Read 2 Timothy 4:3-5. Why do people listen to false teachers? (4:3)

What does Paul tell Timothy to do above all? (4:5a)

What do you think this means, and how does this relate to 2 Corinthians 11:3?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Who gets your attention? What determines your interest in certain books, speakers, topics or programs? Underline the qualities on the next page that most often dictate your willingness to listen to someone's ideas.

Serves behind the scenes	Knows God's Word	Educated
Has a pleasant face	Has experience in subject	Famous
Wears attractive clothing	Consistent life with message	Wealthy
Faithfulness	Dynamic speaking ability	Humble
Entertaining	Godly character	Intelligent
Has a quiet testimony	Other-oriented	Other:_____

Then put a star by those qualities that are most important to God.

What have you learned from today's lesson that helps you to be a more discerning listener?

### Day Four

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:7-11. How does Paul describe his ministry? (11:7a)
2. What was Paul's method of sharing Christ with the Corinthians? (11:7-8)
3. What strong word does he use to get the point across in 11:8?
4. What did Paul accomplish by not taking money for his service? (11:9)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

- 5, Read Revelation 22:17 and Romans 6:23. Is there a cost for us to receive forgiveness and restoration to God through Christ?

Yet is sharing the gospel with others ever without a cost?

What does the Macedonian's generosity tell you about their understanding of the gospel (2 Cor. 11:9)? See also 2 Cor. 8:1-4.

6. How would you describe being a burden to someone, especially a person you are attempting to serve? (11:9)

How is this different from Paul's dependence on them in 2 Corinthians 1:10-11, 5:12, and 8:8?

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7. What was Paul's motive for not being a "burden"?
8. Read John 15:13. What does Jesus tell us about love?

How does this apply to Paul's relationship to the Corinthians?

9. What is the reason for Paul's boast in this passage?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

10. Do you ever serve Christ or others out of personal need, perhaps to feel significant or for recognition, or to be cared for in return?  
Explain:

How can Paul's example of pure love move you from being a burden to a blessing?

### **Day Five**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:12-15. Why will Paul continue to serve the Corinthians? (11:12)

What strong words does he use to describe the effects of his consistent service?

2. What is the false teachers' boast?
3. Write down all the labels Paul gives to the false teachers in 11:13:

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. What is a "masquerade" and what is its purpose?

What is Satan's "masquerade"?

Who do his servants appear to be?

Why do you think Satan and his workers are in disguise?

5. Read Deuteronomy 13:1-4. What is the criteria for a true prophet?

What is not the criteria? (13:2)

6. Read Matthew 7:15-23. How does Jesus describe false prophets? (7:15)

How can we tell the difference between true and false teachers, according to Jesus?

How does this relate to the contrast between Paul versus the false teachers?

7. Read Romans 12:21. How does verse apply to Paul's strategy with the false teachers?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Explain why it is vital for you to have a consistent, clear message and lifestyle, in a world of mixed messages:

How can your Christ-like example and pure devotion to Christ win over any opposing messages or messengers? How can you overcome evil with good in your life right now?