

Remnant Life Church  
May 24, 2015  
**Recognizing the Truth**  
**Part II**  
**The Jealous Father of the Bride**  
**2 Corinthians 11:1-15**

- Begin this series with a look at the circumstances surrounding the writing of Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth
- Encourage but also warn them against following false teaching
  - The Judaizes
  - The mixing of the truth of Jesus Christ with the cultures of the day and the traditions of the Jewish OT laws
- Paul paints three pictures that we can embrace to understand the difference between truth and lies
- READ 2 Cor 11:2
- Painting #1: The Jealous Father
  - The definition of jealous
    1. Worldly – jealous **of** someone  
*James 4:2 - You covet but you cannot get what you want...*
    2. Biblical – jealous **for** someone  
*11:2 - I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy...*
  - The picture being painted is that of the bride and the bridegroom (10 books throughout the Bible reference the Bridegroom)  
Anticipation, joy, waiting with expectancy, etc...
- The bride and groom culture of that day centered around arranged marriages
  1. The role of the father was to protect and prepare his daughter to be married
  2. Many times these were set years before they were ready
  3. She was to remain pure until the time of her wedding
    - + Joseph had to be told by an angel that Mary's pregnancy was not a result of betrayal (*Matt 1:20*)
    - + Parable of the Ten Virgins – (*Matt 25:1-13*)
- Paul tells the church that they are like that bride waiting for their bridegroom (Jesus) to come for them
- Steve Zeisler, Teaching Pastor of Peninsula Bible Church in Paolo Alto, CA describes this passage this way: "Paul came to Corinth and became their spiritual father, and the church that was born in Corinth was readied as a bride for her husband. Now, since the Lord had not yet returned, they should be waiting patiently, growing in love with their beloved, looking forward to the day when the Bridegroom will come for the bride. But instead, they were being seduced by good-looking, fast-talking, spiritual gigolos who were turning the head of the bride. They were listening to voices that

offered other opportunities, seducing them away from the One for whom they were intended.”

- This is a primary goal of Satan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through...
  1. New Age – nothing added (**Duet 4:2**)
  2. Liberal interpretation of the Scriptures
  3. Culturally sensitive wording of the Bible
  4. Manipulative preaching and teaching from the pulpit –
    - a. Using the Bible to elicit a particular behavior, “If you give X dollars then God will bless you...”
    - b. God’s love, blessings, and favor cannot be bought!
  5. The “Doctrine of Inclusivity”
    - a. **John 14:6**
    - b. Spiritual inclusivity is a cultural mandate not a biblical one
- What does this all mean to us today?
  1. We must stay devoted to Jesus Christ through His Word
  2. We do this as we are reminded of what we have been forgiven of by God’s love, mercy, and grace
  3. Nobody is born perfect so how is it that we can be included in this church called a “pure virgin?” (**2 Cor 11:2**)
    - a. Jesus changed us from filthy sinners to clean sinners
    - b. We are still sinners by the nature of man but we are cleansed and forgiven by the nature of Christ
    - c. Jesus Himself gave us this makeover and it goes to the very heart of who we are
- We can recognize and know the truth by staying faithful to the One who will come for us
- Just as the sheep recognize the voice of the shepherd we can learn to recognize the voice of the One who loves us
  - Do I guard my heart?
  - Do I guard the gate of my eyes and ears that lead to my heart?
  - Do I know the Word to be able to recognize and say what is truth and what is not according to His Word?