



**Part 15:
Keep It Simple
2 Cor. 11:1-15**

To keep my faith uncomplicated...

1. I must realize _____

"I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him." 2 Cor. 11:1,2

2. I must remain _____

"But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent." 2 Cor. 11:3 NLT

I can at times be distracted from Jesus by...

- _____
"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." John 5:39
- _____
"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed." Luke 10:41
- _____
"...you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law." Matt. 23:23
- _____
"Command certain men not to... devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith." 2 Tim. 1:4
- _____
"My sin is always before me." Psalm 51:3
- _____
"Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, Lord, save me!" Matt. 14:29

3. I must recognize _____

"You seem to believe whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach about a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed." 2 Cor. 11:4

- Redefining _____ (v. 4a)
- Redefining _____ (v. 4b)
- Redefining _____ (v. 4c)

The "different gospel": a mix of _____ & _____

4. I must be ruthless _____

"But I will continue doing this to cut the ground out from under the feet of those who boast that their work is just like ours. These people are false apostles. They have fooled you by disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder his servants can also do it by pretending to be godly ministers. In the end they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve." 2 Cor. 11:12-15

Paul's surprising insight: The most dangerous distractions to pure and simple devotion come from those who appear _____

So... how do I stay focused on Jesus?

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent."* 2 Cor. 11:3 NLT

Monday

Read 2 Cor. 11:1-15. Look back over your notes from last weekend. What truths from these verses stands out most to you?

Read the story of Peter in Matt. 14:25-32. How is this an illustration of losing focus on Jesus? What caused Peter to lose his focus?

Is something similar tugging at your focus today?

Spend time today simply focusing on the person of Jesus Christ. Think of some of His words and actions. Give thanks to Him. Bring Him your worries... and leave them there!

Tuesday

Read 2 Cor. 11:1,2. In a spiritual sense, you have been “promised to one husband who is Christ.” How does seeing Jesus Christ as your promised husband imply a different relationship than seeing him as a great teacher or guru, or even as a distant deity?

How can seeing Jesus as your husband be helpful to you today?

How does it affect you to know that, no matter what you may have done in your past, Jesus sees you as a “pure virgin” bride?

Tell your “promised husband” Jesus that you love Him. Ask Him to help you see His passionate love for you in a fresh way.

Wednesday

Read 2 Cor. 11:3. This is one of my favorite verses in the whole Bible! How have you been led astray from a “pure and simple devotion to Christ” in your past?

In your life currently, what can dampen your enthusiasm and pull you away from your love to Christ?

What are some of the people or things that deceive you?

How do you deal with these distractions?

Ask God to help you eliminate the distractions so you have pure and simple focus on Him!

Thursday

Read 2 Cor. 11:4,5. How do you see a “different Jesus” being taught in our culture?

How do you see a “different Spirit” taught in our culture?

How do you see “different gospels” taught in our culture?

Why do you think people put up with these different, non-historical, inaccurate versions of the gospel and of Jesus?

What “different gospel” has at one point or another pulled you away from Jesus?

How did you become aware of its deceitfulness?

Commit your life anew to the Jesus, the Spirit, the Gospel of the Scriptures! Ask God to help you eliminate distractions!

Friday

Read Revelation 2:1-7. How is Christ’s critique of the church at Ephesus similar to 2 Corinthians 11:3?

In what ways have you at times lost your first love for Christ?

Why do you think this happens?

Jesus’ advice is to “repent and do the things you did at first”. How is this good advice for restoring a lost first love?

Ask God to help you retain or restore a first love for Jesus. Spend time meditating on Him today!

Saturday

Please finish any devotions you may have missed and review the memory verse for the week. Please pray for the services this weekend, that they will glorify and honor God.

Some questions this week adapted from *NavPress Lesson Maker* and *Serendipity Study Bible*