

# **Keep it Simple**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 11:1-15.

B. Paul warned against the process of infiltration and destruction of the church within by teachers who are veering off from the truth.

C. Subject: the tactics for dealing with those who are drifting into cults.

## II. What Paul did in Corinth.

A. He reveals to them the jealousy of his heart for the Corinthians.

1. Jealousy is a powerful motivator.

2. God is said to be jealous.

3. Jealousy can be both good and bad.

a. False jealousy is tyrannical and vicious.

b. True jealousy is one that arises out of the deep passion of the welfare for another.

4. God has cleansed the Christians at Corinth, but Paul sees a threat to this.

B. He tells them that the simplicity that is in Christ should remain central.

1. When religion becomes complicated, it means that it is drifting from the centralities of faith.

2. God is simple in His nature.

3. The simplicity that Paul referred to is the daily companionship the believer has with Christ. Christianity is not a creed; it is a relationship. (I Corinthians 1, Philippians 1)

C. He employs irony to say that content is more important than style.

D. Paul did not rely on the Corinthians financially because of his love for them despite his right.

1. He did this to demonstrate how free the gospel was.

2. He would never ask support from those he was actually preaching to at the time.

E. Paul confronts the false teachers directly.

1. Neither the apostles nor Jesus said that you always have to be nice.
  2. They use hard language towards false teachers quite often.
  3. The false teachers will fall victim of their own lies.
- F. The way to stay clear of false teachers is to keep close to the Shepherd.

**Application questions:**

1. How can jealousy be a good thing? Explain.

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2. How do you feel about confronting false teachers directly? What were the circumstances that Jesus did this?

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3. Why is it important to “keep it simple” when faced with false teaching? What does this mean?

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