

11-3-19 Message From 10-31-10 Message
THE SIMPLICITY WHICH IS IN CHRIST

II Corinthians 11:1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

II Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

II Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Intro:

Our text is:

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Let us consider this statement that Paul made to the church at Corinth. We should not be moved from the simplicity which is in Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

THE SIMPLICITY OF WHICH IS IN CHRIST IS THE POWER BEHIND THE GREAT COMMISSION

TONIGHT LET US CONSIDER THE POWER BEHIND THE SIMPLICITY OF CHRIST

Into:

I. WHAT MAKES SIMPLICITY SO POWERFUL?

1. SIMPLICITY IS POWERFUL BECAUSE IT WORKS AND BRINGS SUCCESS.

Where there are too many choices there is confusion.

Consider the Squirrel: Notice how when they try to cross a highway and see a car coming, they can't decide which way to go and get killed?

We marvel at the power of computers and think they are so complicated, but really the power behind a computer is simply the power of 0's and 1's, on and off, in different combinations.

THERE IS POWER IN SIMPLICITY!

THE EASIEST THING TO UNDERSTAND.

Simplicity can be boiled down to ONE. ONE AND ONE ONLY!!!

It all starts with one.

THE GOAL IN MAKING A SIMPLE DECISION IS TO NARROW IT DOWN TO ONE.
THE ONE AND ONLY BEST DECISION.

When it becomes clear that there is no choice but one, that one is the best and better choice. You can rest assured, and you can be at peace, that you made the best decision when you narrow it down to one and the best decision.

Confusion comes when you seem to have 2 equally good choices.

I am diabetic and ordering what to eat in a restaurant can be difficult. There is this one restaurant that we go to I never have to decide what I will order. There is only one thing that they have that is good for me to eat.

More is not always better. More choices are not always better.
All you need is the one and only best choice.

THERE IS POWER IN SIMPLICITY.

The word in our text (simplicity) is the same word that means single. ONE.
The word subtilty.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Satan is subtle because he brings to us confusion.

The word single in the Bible denotes holiness.

Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Crooked denotes a line that goes in different directions.

The best and quickest way to get where you want to go is a straight line.

Why do churches split?

Churches split because there are too many choices.

We once voted to get Chairs for our church. There was not a unanimous opinion about whether we should replace the pews with chairs but it was clear it would be best for our Sunday School area. So we held up on getting them for the auditorium. The best choice is the choice that there is no other option.

One choice.

It was better for our Sunday School area to get chairs.

It was best to get a chairs to match similar color to our pews.

It was best to set up a fund to do so. When money was on hand church said, Pastor buy them.

Splits happen when there are too many choices and people are not in a position to understand what is the best choice.

Or there is a devil with evil intentions that comes in and tries to bring confusions.

2. THE DEVIL BRINGS CONFUSION THROUGH SUBTLETY AND HIS SUBTLETIES SHOULD BE AVOIDED!

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Subtlety - he questioned God's word. He made it seem good to bring a multiplicity of better choices into our lives.

He suggested we get off of the track which was set up for us by God and this derailed our lives. Sin enters our lives this way.

HE BROUGHT CROOKERY INTO OUR LIVES. This is what happened in the garden with Eve. He made her think she had an option to eat the forbidden fruit. It became her choice.

How foolish she was:

This is how we make wrong choices in our lives. We make wrong choices when we think there is another option than following Christ. Following Christ is simple.

3. A SIMPLE LIFE IS A BETTER LIFE.

CONSIDER THE POWER OF ONE.

NEED ONLY ONE WIFE.
NEED ONLY ONE CHURCH.
NEED ONLY ONE BIBLE.
NEED ONLY ONE FAITH.

Still using same word processor from 1985 for my messages.

We rebuild old Hammond organs.
There are three basic organs I sell. They all use the same parts.
Everything is interchangeable.
These organs are 50 - 60 years old and are worth more now
then when they were made new, and in more demand now.
Laurens Hammond believed in the power of simplicity.

***II. THE POWER BEHIND THE GREAT COMMISSION IS OUR SIMPLE MESSAGE.
IT CONTAINS THE CONCEPT OF ONE TRUTH.***

CONSIDER THE ONE TRUTH THAT CONCERNING ALL.

All is a singular. Truth. Simple to understand.
Devil wants to make us believe there can be exceptions.

QUESTION LIKE, WHAT ABOUT THIS OR THAT OR THESE PEOPLE OR THOSE ??

***1. THE FIRST TRUTH WE NEED TO KNOW IS THAT ALL ARE LOST.
ALL ARE DEAD WITHOUT CHRIST. ALL MEANS ALL.***

People say what about the heathen in Africa?
What makes them any different than the heathen in New York City?
WHAT ABOUT THE HEATHEN NEXT DOOR?

The first thing we need to understand is this one truth.

II Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if
one died for all, then were all dead:

All are dead.
All are sinners.
All need to be saved.

We have a universal message, everyone is in the same boat.
And that boat is sinking because of our fallen condition.

Some would think there would need to be a different message for different people. NO NO NO NO.

October 31st we had our fall family fellowship. We could have talked about Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wall of the Wintenberg Church. His argument against the church was powerful.

IF THE POPE HAD THE POWER TO SAVE SOULS FROM PURGATORY BY SHEER POWER OF HIS PAPAL DECREES THEN WHY DID HE NOT JUST MAKE A DECREE AND RELEASE EVERYONE FROM PURGATORY? WHY WAIT TILL THEY GIVE MONEY?

GOD'S WAYS MAKE MORE SENSE.

ALL ARE IN THE SAME CONDEMNATION. THAT CONDEMNATION IS THAT THE WAGES OF SIN, SINGULAR, BRINGS DEATH AND HELL. SALVATION COMES THROUGH FAITH AND FAITH ALONE!

So when we go to the world to declare the gospel, we have a universal message. All are dead and in need of salvation. All who call upon the name of the Lord can be saved.

2 *CONSIDER THE POWER OF ALL. SINGLENES.*
THE POWER BEHIND OUR MESSAGE IS THAT CHIRST DIED FOR ALL.

He died for everyone's sins.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

II Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

II Corinthians 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

ALL ARE DEAD.
CHRIST DIED FOR ALL.

3. *THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO BE SAVED THEN TO COME TO CHIRST.*

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

4. PEOPLE ASK ABOUT JEWS, MOSLEMS, BUDDHISTS, ETC.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

There is only one way, one truth, one life.

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

III. IF THIS IS TRUE THERE IS ONLY ONE RIGHT REACTION TO THESE TRUTHS.

Many years ago when Peter Accardi and Carl Shanosk, shared the gospel to me for the first time, all I knew was what the Catholic church taught about Heaven. They taught the only people that go straight to heaven are saints.

The Bible argues that:

**All are sinners.
All deserve hell.
All need to be saved.
Christ died for all.
All that receive Him can be saved.**

So the simple message was if I come to Christ I can be saved.

I realized the implications of this truth is that if I believed this than what kind of person would I be if I did not try to share this message with everyone? So that is what I have been trying to do for 49 years now!

IV. WE ALL SHOULD BE WITNESSES AND HAVE A BURDEN TO REACH OUT TO ALL THE WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL.

There is no greater purpose in life than this.

This is why the Lord left us on this planet, to share this simple, singular, powerful, message about:

One Saviour.
One Way to Heaven.
One Lord.
One gospel.

Conclusion .. Whether it be through personal witness or missions giving let's not have our minds corrupted from the simplicity which is in Jesus Christ.