

SIMPLICITY IN CHRIST

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (2 Cor 11:3 KJV)

The Bible word translated as “simplicity” is “haplotēs”. It refers to single hearted devotion as compared to “diplous” or duplicity. PLEASE FOCUS YOUR MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL ENERGIES ON THIS VERSE FOR IT CONTAINS A “KEY” TO YOUR SALVATION! YOU CANNOT BE SAVED WITHOUT SINGLE HEARTED DEVOTION TO CHRIST!

Remember! **“the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him (2 Chr 16:9).** Jeremiah put it like this: **“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jer 29:13)** Jesus said it like this: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment.” (Matt 22:37-38).** AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, SINGLE HEARTED DEVOTION IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD! NO WONDER THE DEVIL WANTS TO “CORRUPT” YOUR MINDS FROM THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST!

Obviously, there is something very desirable about single hearted devotion to Christ. Among other things, it is a right of passage into the presence of God. It is like a “key” and works every time it is tried. It will work for people of any age, ethnicity, intelligence, or social standing. Even little children can use this key. Mentally retarded people can use this key. Illiterate people can use this key. But, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, he also wants to “corrupt” your mind from “the simplicity that is in Christ”. Just like he did Eve, the devil wants to use human reasoning to corrupt your total commitment to Christ. This word “corrupt” is the same word used in Rev. 19:2 to inform us that the “great prostitute . . . corrupted the earth by her adulteries”. She seduced the followers of God away from their single hearted devotion to Christ. This analogy, of course, is a Biblical one. Believers have been “promised to one husband” and Paul wanted to present the church as a “pure virgin” to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2). The Scriptures call the devil “the god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4), and remind us that the whole world is under the control of the wicked one (1 John 5:19). The peer pressure to corrupt us from the simplicity that is in Christ is unrelenting.

The late Roy Weece observed that many Christians have had their faith “smiled away”. How diabolical! How subtle! How insidious! Yes! We must candidly admit that the power of peer pressure is a potent force to be reckoned with. When “everybody” is doing something wrong, it is hard to stand alone and do something that is right. It was hard for Elijah when everyone around him was worshipping Baal. It was hard for Mary to stand by the cross of Christ when even His disciples had forsaken him and fled. It was hard for Columbus to stand for truth when the masses were convinced that the world was flat. In the same way, it will be hard for you and me to maintain our single hearted devotion to Christ in a world dominated by the corrupting influence of the enemy of our souls

The “Good News” is that believers are not alone in our struggle against the forces of evil. Not only does Jesus dwell in our hearts by faith, but He has promised never to leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5). In addition to the power of Christ and His blessed Holy Spirit, we also have access to a wide range of resources both human and divine. Paul put it like this to the Corinthians: **“All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future-- all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.” (1 Cor 3:21-23).**

While the nature of the battle is easily understood, the victory may not be easily achieved. Please consider the example of Christ. He entered into the Garden of Gethsemane struggling over this very issue on the night before Calvary. Even though the angels came and ministered to Him, the battle was so difficult that His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. For this very reason we need to put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the efforts of the wicked one to corrupt our minds from the simplicity that is in Christ.