**2 Corinthians 11: 1-3**

I. Living in light of Eternity

A. Watch the 3-minute Francis Chan Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yIKZnHnHNM>

B. This summer we’ll be explore how to live today in light of eternity

1. If we lived with an eternal mindset, there are certain things we’d pursue more wholeheartedly today.

2. If we lived with an eternal mindset, there are certain things we’d hold less tightly today

C. Today we will talk about the main thing we’d pursue more wholeheartedly: Jesus himself

II. 2 Corinthians 11:2-3

A. The metaphor of marriage

1. This life is our betrothal to Jesus (v. 2: “I betrothed you to one husband.”)

2. Eternity is the consummation of our marriage (v. 3: “to present you to him”)

See also Revelation 19:6-7 and 21:2

B. Paul’s goal for them

1. To present them as a pure virgin to Christ when he returns (v. 2)

2. To present them to “one husband.” The goal is that their affections and desires would be for Christ alone as their one husband

C. Paul’s fear for them

1. That they would be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ

2. “Sincere” means single-minded

3. The concern is that over time other passions, ideas, and priorities would creep in and crowd their simple and pure devotion to Christ

III. The metaphor of engagement/betrothal

A. Engagement is a very short time designed for a pure and simple devotion to each other with the anticipation of the upcoming marriage

B. Two threats to an engagement

1. Outside love interest might step in and steal someone’s devotion

2. The practical details and responsibilities of wedding planning might distract from the purity of the relationship

IV. Our engagement to Jesus

A. During this short engagement we are called to a pure and simple devotion to our fiance, Jesus

B. How is your devotion to Jesus? What is leading you astray from the purity and simplicity of your devotion to him?

1. Worldly interests and passions that draw us away from Christ

2. The responsibilities of life (and even religion) that can take us away from Jesus himself

3. Consider soil #3 in the parable of the soil in Mark 4:1-20

C. If you have lost your pure and simple devotion to Christ, the bad news is that’s a very serious spiritual problem that requires very serious spiritual solutions (both the supernatural work of the Spirit in our hearts and our intentional work to keep Christ central in our hearts and minds)

D. The good news is that, no matter the quality of our devotion to Christ, h e has a pure and simple devotion to us

1. Consider Christ’s devotion to us in Ephesians 5:25-33

a. He has washed us clean by his own sacrifice of himself so that he could present us as a ure bride perfectly suited for him

b. He considers us part of his own body and cares for us accordingly

2. Consider Jesus’ words in John 14:1-3 (POWERPOINT)

a. In 1st century betrothals, the groom travels to the bride’s home and the two are betrothed. The groom then returns home to build a place for his new bride in his father’s/family’s home. When this is finished (about a year later) the bridegroom travels back to his bride and with great ceremony (lighted lamps, accompanying friends, etc.) brings her back to her new home in his father’s house where the marriage is consummated.

b. Jesus is intentionally echoing the language of first century betrothals to communicate to his disciples (and us) his great anticipation and excitement to be with us

Conclusion

I. You will spend eternity with Jesus; you are engaged for a very short time; live your engagement with a pure and simple devotion to him

II. Make this summer a time of pure and simple devotion to Christ

A. Do things that help focus your attention on him, deepen your appreciation of him, increase your enjoyment of him

B. Examples

1. Pursue the unique ways you connect with him (music, creation, service, etc.)

2. Spend regular quality time with him

3. Read one of the gospels this summer with the goal of reintroducing yourself to him and getting to know him better

4. Memorize Scripture this summer

5. Find someone who knows Jesus well, and spend time with them the summer and learn from them

**Discussion Questions**

1. Watch the Francis Chan video together. How do you react to that image? What specific issues does that raise for you?

2. Consider the engagement and marriage metaphor used in 2 Corinthians 11. In what ways does that impact how you spend your time on this earth?

3. Read together Ephesians 5:22-33 focusing on Christ’s devotion and actions towards us, his bride. What do you notice that might be a new insight to that passage? What questions does that passage raise for you, if any?

4. As you consider your own devotion to Christ, what are the main things that are getting in the way or leading you astray at this time in your life?

5. Is there anything specific you want to do this summer to pursue a sincere and pure devotion to Jesus? (see the examples in the conclusion for possible ideas)