

2 CORINTHIANS

The Benefit of Inadequacy

2 Corinthians 11:1-21

“A Little Foolishness”

“Answer not a fool according to his folly,
lest you be like him yourself.

Answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he be wise in his own eyes.”

– Proverbs 26:4-5

Do we fall for this foolishness?

“A Little Foolishness”

1. Foolish Interest (in another Jesus) – 11:1-4
“you put up with it readily enough.”
2. Foolish Rejection (as inferior apostle) – 11:5-12
“or did I commit a sin in humbling myself ...”
3. Foolish Acceptance (of false apostles) – 11:13-21
“For you bear it if someone ... puts on airs”

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel -- not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.”

– Galatians 1:6-8

“And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.' For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.

And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.”

— Hosea 2:16-17, 19-20

“A Little Foolishness”

1. Foolish Interest (in another Jesus) – 11:1-4

“you put up with it readily enough.”

Divine Jealousy for faithful commitment

Easily Deceived by something “Different”

“A Little Foolishness”

2. Foolish Rejection (as inferior apostle) – 11:5-12

“or did I commit a sin in humbling myself ...”

Super-Apostles Superiority

Not on the Same Mission or Same Terms

“A Little Foolishness”

3. Foolish Acceptance (of false apostles) – 11:13-21

“For you bear it if someone ... puts on airs”

Disguised but Devouring

“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.”

– Ezekiel 34:2-4

Do we fall for this foolishness?

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

– 1 Corinthians 1:25-29