

"I Pledge Allegiance"

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Paul played the fool, not so that the Corinthians would pledge allegiance to him, but that they might remain committed to the Lord.

The crises in 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 was the Corinthians' . . .

- I. Allegiance to the _____ (1-3)
- II. Allegiance to the _____ (4)
 - A. Some _____ another _____ (4a)
 - B. Some _____ another _____ (4b)
 - C. Some _____ another _____ (4c)
- III. Allegiance to the _____ (5-6)
- IV. Allegiance to the _____ (7-15)

_____ **the truth.** The source of truth is the Word of God. Like the Bereans in Acts 17, we must search the Scripture and seek to know all the truth that God has given us. We seek the truth in the Scripture because God's Word is truth (Jn 17:17), and we believe that God's Word is the sufficient source for life and godliness (2 Tim 3:16-17). We are convinced that Jesus Christ is the Truth (Jn 14:6) and are grateful that God's Holy Spirit leads us into all truth (Ps 25:5; Jn 16:13).

_____ **the truth.** We do not hide the truth in the sense of hiding it from others, but in the sense of hiding it in the depths of our hearts. David made it his practice to meditate and memorize God's Word (Ps. 1:2; 119:97) to guard him from sin (Ps. 119:11) and to direct him in life (Ps. 119:105).

_____ **the truth.** We might speak the truth of God's Word expositionally (verse by verse), topically (citing a particular subject in the Bible), or practically (bringing the Bible to bear on our lives). We might speak the truth of God's word evangelistically (declaring the gospel to a lost world), apologetically (defending the gospel from those who reject it) or polemically (defining the gospel to Christians who misunderstand). Ultimately, we speak the truth in love for the maturing of the body of Christ (Eph 4:15).

_____ **the truth.** As the old saying goes, "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." With the presupposition that the Scripture is the inerrant (without error), infallible (absolutely reliable), and inspired (direct from God) Word of God, we accept it as our authority for every area of faith and practice. We accept what it says even when it confronts our beliefs or behaviors. We accept it, "not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God" (1 Thess 1:13).

_____ **the truth.** A distinguishing characteristic of Christian Fundamentalism is not only that one believes the fundamental truths of the Scripture (many do), but that one is ready "to do battle royal for the Fundamentals," protecting the truth from those who would seek to pervert it. We find it important to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). While some might do so in an offensive, militant way, we seek to do so with humility and graciousness. There is no virtue in rudeness or arrogance. Yet we desire to "hold fast the pattern of sound words" (2 Tim 1:13) which have been given to us in the Scriptures.