

# 2 Corinthians 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.** Paul reveals the motivation behind his uncomfortable 'boasting'—divine jealousy (*zelos theou*, ζήλος θεοῦ). This is not petty envy but the fierce protective love of God for His covenant people, the jealousy that tolerates no rivals.

The betrothal metaphor casts Paul as the *paranympnos* (friend of the bridegroom) who arranged the marriage and must present the bride pure and faithful. The verb *hermosamai* (ἡρμοσάμην, 'I have espoused') indicates Paul's role in their conversion—he brought them to Christ. **One husband** emphasizes exclusive devotion; **chaste virgin** (*parthenon hagnēn*, παρθένον ἁγνήν) denotes purity from spiritual adultery.

This imagery draws on Hosea's portrayal of Israel as God's bride and anticipates Ephesians 5:25-27 and Revelation 19:7-9. The church is corporately betrothed to Christ, awaiting the consummation at His return. Any teaching that compromises pure devotion to Christ is spiritual seduction threatening the bride's virginity.

## Historical Context

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The betrothal metaphor was deeply meaningful in Jewish culture where arranged marriages involved a betrothal period of exclusive commitment before the

wedding. The friend of the bridegroom bore responsibility for the bride's conduct during this interval. Paul sees his apostolic role as maintaining the Corinthians' fidelity to Christ against seducers.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does viewing yourself as betrothed to Christ, awaiting His return, shape your daily choices and affections?
2. What 'rival lovers' compete with Christ for the church's exclusive devotion in our cultural moment?
3. In what ways might Christian leaders today function as 'friends of the bridegroom,' protecting Christ's bride from seduction?

## Interlinear Text

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ζηλῶ	γὰρ	ὕμᾱς	θεοῦ	ζήλω	ἡρμοσάμην	γὰρ
<b>I am jealous</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>over you</b>	<b>with godly</b>	<b>jealousy</b>	<b>I have espoused</b>	<b>For</b>
G2206	G1063	G5209	G2316	G2205	G718	G1063
ὕμᾱς	ἐνὶ	ἀνδρὶ	παρθένον	ἀγνήν	παραστήσαι	τῷ
<b>over you</b>	<b>to one</b>	<b>husband</b>	<b>virgin</b>	<b>you as a chaste</b>	<b>that I may present</b>	
G5209	G1520	G435	G3933	G53	G3936	G3588
Χριστῷ·						
<b>to Christ</b>						
G5547						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 54:5** (References God): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

**Colossians 1:28** (References Christ): Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

**John 3:29** (Parallel theme): He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

**Ezekiel 44:22** (Parallel theme): Neither shall they take for their wives a widow, nor her that is put away: but they shall take maidens of the seed of the house of Israel, or a widow that had a priest before.

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