

Honoring The Lord

I Corinthians 11: 1-34

8/12/01

Intro

- Pray for the Africa team, coming home this week.
- Jonathan did great last week.

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In this chapter, Paul takes up another question the church in Corinth had asked regarding how things should operate in the church itself, particularly regarding authority.

There is a lot of cultural context to this chapter, but there is a lot for us to learn in regards to principles for our lives today.

The question is simply this; does God know how to bless our lives with His wisdom? The answer is clearly yes; the decision that we must now make is whether we will live by God's ways.

Paul taught Christian freedom, but does that mean that we can throw off sense of order? Paul gives a detailed answer.

- These scriptures teach us how to honor the Lord with our freedom.

In particular Paul addresses the women in the church. This is once of the most controversial, yet important subjects he addresses. Some women were confused as to how they should operate as women. They were tired of veils.

I. A Two-Headed Anything is in Trouble.

Vs 3

A. God has established a structure of authority.

- God, Christ, husband, and wife.
- Most people focus on the fact that the husband has authority over the wife.
- Yet, it's even more important that the husband be under Christ.
- Each one chooses to be in submission, even as Christ did. (We pastor by permission.)

- God has not established a marriage of slavery. A wife is to be submitted as he is submitted to Christ.

Illus- Kaveh, when witnessing to Muslims will compare the Koran to the Bible. Which do they think was written by God?

Vs 4-7

B. What about head-coverings – a cultural question.

- The man was not to have his head covered.

Illus- In Israel today, it is the opposite (because of Moses).

Illus- In America, we used to have a tradition that a man took his hat off when he came indoors. (Now we do when praying.)

- A woman was to have her head covered.

Illus- In that culture the women wore veils and the prostitutes shaved their heads.

- Imagine if an American woman travels to the Middle East.

- Note that women ***could*** pray and prophesy in the church. Another change from the culture.

Vs 10

C. Because of the angels.

- Wouldn't it be great to understand this verse? We will have to wait until we ask Paul in heaven.

- No one knows what Paul means here.

Vs 11-12

D. Paul also taught the equality of man and woman.

II. Our freedom is an opportunity to prove our loyalty to the Lord.

Vs 19

A. Every challenge is an opportunity to prove our loyalty to the Lord.

- This is a powerful truth that can guide many of our decisions.

B. Many were bringing their freedom into the church.

- Communion for them was done with a potluck. They called it an "Agape Feast."
- Yet many did not have enough for basic eating.
- Others were wealthy and had plenty.
- Some were overindulging a church!!

C. If a person truly loves God, it is seen in how he loves his brother.

Conclusion

Whether it's about the order of authority or the way we eat in the church. It's all about the Lord.

Communion is a perfect picture of this very thing. It's a reminder to us that it's all about the Lord.

True believers will honor the Lord before anything else.