

1Corinthians – Week 40

I. Review:

A. Head Covering (1Corinthians 11:2-16):

- i. If a man prays or prophesies, he must not cover his head
- ii. If a woman prays or prophesies, she must cover her head
 1. She is not allowed to speak during public worship (1Cor. 14:33b-35)
- iii. A woman's hair represents her glory while the artificial covering represents her subjection to man.

II. Continuation:

A. It seems that most, if not all of the Corinthians were following Paul's instructions about head coverings because of what he said in verse 2.

B. But he had no praise for them regarding what he is about to address in vv. 17ff.

C. 1Cor. 11:17 (ESV), *“But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.”*

- i. The gathering of the saints is supposed to be a time of spiritual encouragement.
- ii. In 1Cor. 14:26b, Paul said, *“Let all things be done for building up.”*
- iii. But in the case of the Corinthians, their meetings did not promote mutual edification, spirituality and harmony but rather, it brought about discouragement, alienation and division.
- iv. This is a perfect reminder for us as disciples to make sure that our coming together results in edification not destruction (cf. Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:29).

D. 1Cor. 11:18 (ESV), *“For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part”*

- i. Who did Paul hear this from? Chloe's household (cf. 1Cor. 1:11).
- ii. The divisions in this context had to do with social groupings within the church, not the differences involving loyalty to leaders (1:12).
- iii. The reason why Paul said *“And I believe this in part”* was because he knew that not everyone in the congregation was guilty of this grievous sin.
 1. He did not want to condemn the innocent along with the guilty.
 2. We see this in the next verse...

E. 1Cor. 11:19 (ESV), *“for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine (Gr. dokimos; approved) among you may be recognized.”*

- i. This does not mean that God promotes divisions in the Church? No! For the Bible clearly condemns divisions (cf. 1Cor. 1:10, Gal. 5:19-21).
- ii. So why did Paul say that there must be factions among you?
 1. Factions will reveal who has God's approval!
 2. Consider the following:
 - a. There will be family disunity should one decide to follow Christ (cf. Matt. 10:34-37)
 - b. Jesus said that in the world, temptation to sin will come, but woe to that man by whom those temptations come (Matt. 18:7)
 - c. Many shall fall away; many shall be misled by false prophets; but he who endures to the end shall be saved (cf. Matt. 24:9-13).

3. From these passages, trials and tribulations will determine the character of the believer.
 4. In the same way, factions will determine those who God approves (Gr. *dokimos*) and those who God disqualifies (Gr. *adokimos*) (cf. 1Cor. 9:27).
- iii. It is also good to note that factions reveal the spiritual level of the Church.
1. Years after their conversion, many of the Corinthians were still acting like infants in Christ (cf. 1Cor. 3:1-3).
 - a. The Corinthian congregation was bound to have factions due to their lack in spiritual growth.
- iv. In verses 20ff, Paul brings up the Lord's Supper.
- v. Let's briefly look into the Lord's Supper...
- F. The Lord's Supper: While eating the Passover meal, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:17-30)
- i. The Old Testament Passover (Exodus 12)
 1. It commemorated God's physical deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.
 - a. The people were commanded to slaughter an unblemished lamb and apply its blood on the top and sides of the door frames of their houses.
 - b. Inside, they would eat roasted lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
 - c. The Destroyer passed over any home whose doorframes was marked by the blood of the lamb, sparing the life of the firstborn male.
 - i. Note: The Passover cup did not come into existence until sometime during the inter-testament period.
 - d. However, the Passover was pointing to a much greater deliverance that would be brought about by the death of God's Son, Jesus Christ—the deliverance of his people from their bondage to sin.
 - i. Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away sin (John 1:29)
 1. He is our Passover Lamb (1Cor. 5:7)
 2. And by His blood we are set free from the sin (Rev. 1:5)
 - ii. The Lord's Supper
 1. Jesus established the Lord's Supper using two elements of the Passover meal:
 - a. The unleavened bread which signifies His body (cf. Matthew 26:26)
 - b. The cup containing the fruit of the vine which signifies His blood (cf. Matthew 26:27-28)
 2. The purpose for the Lord's Supper was to help Christians remember what Christ did for them.
 3. The early church celebrated it weekly
 4. Let's consider Acts 20:7
 - a. The disciples partook of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week.
 - b. In Judaism, a day is defined as evening to evening (Lev. 23:32)
 - c. The first century disciples met Sunday evening (our Saturday night) to eat the Lord's Supper.
 - i. Notice how it says Paul spoke till midnight?
- G. 1Cor. 11:20 (ESV), "*When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat.*"
- i. We will discuss this next class.