

1Corinthians – Week 42

I. Review (1Cor. 11:20-34)

A. The Church should be an assembly of spiritual encouragement!

i. But not so with the Corinthian church!

1. There were social divisions going on
2. The Lord's Supper was more of like a gluttonous feast than a meal commemorating the Lord's death!
3. There was nothing loving or Christian in what they were doing!
 - a. They perverted the design of the Lord's Supper...
 - i. Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, showed His great love for His own when He said...
 1. Take this bread. When you eat it, remember that My body was crucified for you.
 2. Take this cup. When you drink it, remember that My blood was shed for your sins.
4. Paul exhorts them to examine themselves and stop their ungodly behavior or God will discipline them with sickness or death as some have experienced.

II. Continuation

A. The Miraculous Gifts of the Spirit

- i. Paul had been dealing with the issue of head coverings and the Lord's Supper
- ii. Now, he turns his attention to issues concerning spiritual gifts
- iii. There have been abuses in the church pertaining to spiritual gifts and Paul writes in order to correct those abuses.
 1. Some felt superior to others because they had certain gifts, like the ability to speak in a foreign language without ever learning it (tongues).
 - a. This led to pride in the one hand and to feelings of envy, inferiority and worthlessness on the other.
 - b. It was therefore necessary for Paul to correct those erroneous attitudes and to establish controls in the exercise of the gifts, especially tongues and prophecy.
- iv. Overview: Chapters 12 – 14
 1. In Chapter 12, Paul gives general instructions regarding gifts.
 - a. The purpose of the gifts was to benefit the church (vs. 7)
 - b. Some felt that they were useless because they didn't possess a certain miraculous gift (vs. 14-26)
 - c. Paul reminds them that just as a body is made of various parts, each member is an integral part of the church, even if one may not possess a certain gift that others may have (vv. 27ff).
 2. In Chapter 13, Paul exhorts them to pursue love above the gifts.
 - a. In this chapter, he tells them that miraculous gifts will eventually fail (vv. 8b-10).
 - b. But love will never fail (vs. 8a)
 3. In Chapter 14, Paul gives specific instructions on how the miraculous gifts should be exercised in public worship.