

God's Desire: Promoting Edification by Instruction with the Word of God in Our Assemblies

That Everything be Done Decently and in Order
Pedro Gelabert

All verses from 1 Corinthians 14 unless otherwise noted.

In the 14th chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthian church the Apostle Paul outlines some basic principles for the assembly of the saints. When these basic principles are repudiated in favor of progressive thinking, God's will has been ignored – by those who seek the glory of man. What is the result? Indecency and disorder will spring up bringing shame unto the church and God.

As church leaders, willing to be used by God to bring about the maturity of the church so it doesn't fall prey to this kind of thinking (*Eph 4:12-16*), we need to remember that God holds His word higher than His name - *Psalms 138:2*. We need to have the word of Christ richly dwell in us (*Col 3:16*) that we may facilitate the proper encouragement and training for those who hear us and see us (*1 Tim 4:15-16*).

We don't want to support what brings shame to the church (*v. 35*), but what brings glory to God. We are even instructed in this chapter of 1st Corinthians that those who don't recognize these basic principles will not be recognized, period (*v. 38*). So we ought to take care not to become people who approve of or are silent about those who have decided to ignore these things.

Paul develops his point in *verses 4-12*, concluding that we should dedicate our time, talents and energy towards the things that will edify the church and not only ourselves. To be entertained or pleased is not necessarily to be built up or edified. That is done, as you read through the chapter, by instruction using the word of God.

Paul's example in *verses 14-17* illustrates how understanding is the key. Our enterprise should promote understanding and wisdom, not necessarily pleasure or entertainment. Our goal is not to please people or to do what is popular or modern. Bowing to societal pleasure is the result of immature thinking amongst the leadership. This leads to doubt, moral grayness and the promoting of ideas and people above God's word.

What causes problems in our assembly is explained in *verse 20*. Immature thinking leads people to indulge in their own thoughts and pleasure/entertainment rather than looking to the building up of others. This is why leaders are not to be appointed in haste but need to be tested. They ought to be full of God's Word and Spirit and good deeds as opposed to their own opinion, or desire to implement their own ideas.

Paul concludes this chapter with a seal of authority in *verse 38*. Paul does not recognize those who diverge from this pattern. As John also said (*2 John 7-11*) we ought not to associate with those who promote an agenda apart from God's plan, for if we do we are promoting these wicked works. It is not surprising that groups who promote entertainment in their services also permit women to speak in the assembly. The Scriptures not only say this brings shame upon the church (*v. 35*), but it is also a result of immature thinking, indecency and disorderliness.

Acts 6:3 teaches us what kind of men were picked by the apostles to serve food: only men full of the spirit were designated as public ministry helpers. Tested and tried MEN. So who should be serving the Lord's Supper, leading in song and preaching? You get the idea.

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

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“Speaking about what we have seen and heard...” Mark 5:19 Family Matters

Let Hope anchor your soul
Don Strittmatter

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” Romans 15:4

Hope is a very important companion to have in our lives. Our hope is to be part of the glory of God in heaven, to be like our Lord Jesus. Because of this hope that God holds out to us we can rejoice, even in sufferings! Read **Romans 5:1-5**. Do we see suffering as an opportunity to grow in perseverance and character; that helps value our hope even more? The struggle to overcome suffering produces these valuable fruits in our lives; they build and strengthen our hope.

Hope carries us when our faith is weak and follows encouragingly when our faith marches boldly. As long as we keep hope in sight, we remember Jesus is Lord and sense God is near, no matter what circumstances swirl around us. In **Hebrews 6:18-19**, the knowledge that we are heirs to God’s promise gives us the encouragement of hope; this hope is an anchor for the soul, holding it firm and secure. The anchor’s purpose is not to stop the storms from happening; it is to hold the ship (soul) steady during the storms and keep it from being blown away from its moorings (The Gospel) and destroyed against the rocks (of sin and doubt). The anchor must have the weight (unwavering trust in God) and strong chain (our prayer, study and obedience) to firmly secure our ship (soul) to the solid bottom of the sea (God’s eternal plan).

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” Romans 15:13

“The Lord added to their number...” Acts 2:47 Recent Baptisms

| DATE | NAME | TOWN |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 9/7/10..... | Ann Marie Luhrs | Upton |
| 7/22/10..... | Randall Colson | Holbrook |
| 7/18/10..... | Berthony Begin | Jamaica (NY) |
| 7/11/10..... | Olivia Figueuroa..... | Medford |
| 7/10/10..... | Samantha Fong..... | East Meadow |

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...” 2 Corinthians 8:5

| MONTH | AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE | AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| July, 2010 | 293 | \$8,315.50 |
| August, 2010 | 294 | \$8,065.20 |
| September, 2010 | 298 | 8,898.25 |

Weekly Budget: \$ 9,000

I Am Important

Claribel Rodriguez de Gelabert

I was going to title this article: “I am not important”. The reason is because often that thought comes to mind. Let me explain.

Sometimes I think I am not important because I am very busy, cooking for my children and my husband, cleaning my home, etc. I look at my husband and children and they seem unaware of what I do. I would like some attention: “Hey, here I am doing all of this! Come and give me some encouragement!” Then I quickly think again about how selfish this may sound.

I know this is not true because my husband is about his work; and my children are doing their thing: homeschool, playing, and often helping me. In addition, every day my husband and my children hug me and tell me, “I love you”, “Thank you for the fabulous food you cook”, and many other forms of encouragement. I asked my husband, “Why do I often feel as if I am not important?” My husband encourages me by saying, “You are the thermostat of our house. You have a profound effect on our household by regulating your temperament first, then helping your children and husband regulate theirs with your incredible patience. Your grace can absorb frustrations, deflect anger and settle indifferences amongst the children with the right attitude and training strategy.”

My reply is usually, “WHAT??!” Then he hugs me and reminds me of [Genesis 3:16 \(ESV\)](#) “*To the woman he said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.’*”

Part of the cross we bear as women is to have a desire for our husbands which they cannot replicate towards us. I think we wish they would have the same attention towards us that we have towards them but it is just wishful and dangerous thinking. It is selfish. Sometimes I resent that my husband has to be the one who rules but it is just an evil impulse from my heart – it is really rebelliousness! Instead of trying to get them to notice me as I serve them, I need to serve them because I notice them and love them. Instead of trying to rule over my husband, I just need to conform to him and be the suitable helper. My desire for my husband should be satiated by his desire for God first, and then his love for me.

I know this sounds hard – it does require a refocusing and a redefinition of what I am and who I am in God's sight. I cannot define my womanhood by the terms of the world or I will be in mental, emotional and spiritual stress! I need to love what God made me and who He made me to be for my husband and children. No longer can I afford to think I should be the center of attention, but the center of service.

[Matthew 20:26-28 ESV](#) *But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, (27) and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, (28) even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

I am important; so important God did not see that it was *good* until woman was made *for* man. Just remember though, woman was made **FOR** man, not man for woman ([1 Co 11:8-9](#))! Knowing your role defeats any attempt the enemy may make to hijack your heart, marriage and parenting.

“For the building up of the Body...” Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS QUARTER

- 📖 **Off Bible Class Dates:** Oct 13rd; Nov 24th; Dec 22nd
- 📖 **Devotional Service Dates:** Oct 8th, 22nd; Nov 5th, 19th; Dec 3rd, 17th
- 📖 **City Women’s Fellowship:** Oct 16th 10am-12pm at Carmen Booker’s home
- 📖 **Ladies Life Talks:** Oct 23rd 11am-11pm at Tasha’s house
- 📖 **Men’s Prayer:** Oct 9th, 23rd 9am at Ernest Johnson’s house
- 📖 **Wallingford/Manchester Youth Rally:** Nov 12th 6:00pm - Nov 14th 11:30am at Sheehan High School, Wallingford CT
- 📖 **Video Library:** If you have any items take out from the video library, please make sure they are signed out or return them if you’re done with them. Please see Rob Dixon in the back foyer Sunday after services for more information. Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch Space link! If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- 📖 Address/telephone changes can be e-mailed to directory@licoc.org.
- 📖 **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✠ Apologetics Press.....International
- ✠ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✠ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✠ Doug & Lucy McDougale.....Ukraine, Russia
- ✠ Long Island Harvest Campaign.....Central Islip, NY
- ✠ City Harvest Campaign.....Queens, NY

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...” 1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(347) 732-2101
House Churches in Rosedale, St Albans and Fresh Meadows in Queens, New York City. Please call for directions.

Spanish Ministry.....(Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Charlie Gómez.....(631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Willie Tolison, and Bill Oden. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

| 2011 | Location | For More Info |
|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Feb 10 - 20 | Sierra Vista, AZ | http://www.wecaretoday.net/Village%20Meadows.html |
| Mar 31 - Apr 10 | Upland, CA | http://www.wecaretoday.net/Upland.html |