**1 CORINTHIANS 11 – “OTHERS FIRST”**

**11:1** Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

* **Why did Paul say this?**
* Because in Ch 10 as well as in this chapter the Apostle was giving some tough love advice…
	+ Put others first… Sacrifice your rights for the sake of others… Try not to offend the weak and new believers… Try not to become easily offended…
	+ And now in CH 11 he will deal with being humble enough to become subservient to one another. This will make some of us bristle and squirm, but… Jesus is our example in this.
	+ Paul assures the Corinthian Church that he too is submitting to others as he is teaching them to.

**Head Coverings**

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered *them* to you.

* Good leaders begin corrective measures with a compliment…
	+ Positive… Negative… Positive…
	+ HE says “I’m glad that you reached out to me when you had these controversies…”
	+ I know some of you are struggling with your pride, so listen up…

3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God.

* **Chuck Smith** – Paul is talking about Divinely ordained authority.
* **COURSON** – “After commending them, however, Paul goes on to tell the Corinthians that some adjustments were necessary… The place of women in the church is not a question of superiority or inferiority, but is based upon humility and liberty. How do I know? Read on. Jesus willingly, voluntarily, gladly submitted to the authority of the Father. Does this mean He was inferior to the Father? No. Philippians 2 makes it clear that He *chose* to humble Himself. So, too, the woman who chooses to submit to the authority of her husband does so **not** out of inferiority, but of humility.”
* The culture of Paul’s time did not treat women very well. We are watching the fall of Afghanistan this week to the Taliban. One of the leading stories has been how awful it is and will be for the women of Afghanistan once the Taliban reinstates Sharia Law which give no rights for women to even leave their homes without a male chaperone. **PRAY FOR AFGHANISTAN**
* The Gospel and Jesus Christ changed the culture for women for the good! But there was and is a Divinely ordained order. It is an order of love and care. It is not in place for anyone to be bullied or abused.

**BE SENSATIVE TO CULTURAL NORMS**

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having *his* head covered, dishonors his head. **IN THEIR CULTURE** 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies ***(Which is allowed)*** with *her* head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. **(Like the prostitutes)** 6 For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, **(Like the prostitutes)** let her be covered.

* It was considered indecent for a woman to be seen in public without a veil. In some places in the Middle East it STILL is.
* Interesting that in some cultures still, men put on a head covering in order to NOT offend.
* When we visit Haiti, we have to bring “Church clothes.” Dresses for the ladies, Shirt and tie for us guys. We sweat through the Sunday service 😊
* When we used to meet at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, they mistook some of us as homeless people because of the casual and messy way some of us dressed. THAT is our culture😊
* The message – Be humble enough to be sensitive to others… Dress in such a way that your intentions will never be misunderstood!

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

* AGAIN – talking about order, not fashion.

8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. 9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. 10 For this reason the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority on *her* head, because of the angels. **(Who are tasked to keep divine order)**

* **Talking about Adam & Eve.**
* Even back in the Garden of Eden, even before there was sin, there was an order… God… then Adam… then Eve.

11 Nevertheless, neither *is* man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. ***THANK GOD!*** 12 For as woman *came* from man, even so man also *comes* through woman; but all things are from God. 13 Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

14 Does not even **nature** itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? 15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for *her* hair is given to her for a covering.

* **GUZIK** - While it is true that it is wrong for a man to take the appearance of a woman (Deu\_22:5), longer hair on a man is not necessarily an indication of this. It is far better for most preachers to be concerned about the length of their sermons instead of the length of people’s hair!

***BUT…***

16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor *do* the churches of God.

**CORRECTIONS ABOUT COMMUNION**

17 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise *you,* since you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. **WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER?**

**GOING FIRST…**

20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. 21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of *others;* and one is hungry **(Left with nothing)** and another is drunk.

* **Here is a good rule of thumb… DON’T INSIST ON GOING FIRST! Ever!**

22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise *you.*

* When at Church, put others first… Treat the church and its property with honor. **Pastor Chuck** was famous for stopping to pick up trash at CCCM. Soon, you couldn’t find a piece of trash in all of Costa Mesa or Santa Ana…

**LET’S GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME…**

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took **bread**; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner *He* also *took* **the cup** after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me."

**MAKE SURE AND DO THIS IN A HOLY MANNER!**

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this reason ***(Ignoring communion)*** many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

* It is spiritually unhealthy for a believer to fail to recognize the importance of communion.
* Some people say that they do not need to go to church to be a Christian… THAT is foolish. People who do not fellowship become weak and spiritually sick… sleepy… dead.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

Now that we have our table manners under control we get to study the Spiritual gifts in the next few chapters… Get ready to be challenged, OK?