

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

### Lesson 16

In scanning the first 16 verses of 1 Corinthians 11 one might come to some wrong conclusions. These verses deal with a violation of a *tradition* at the time of Paul's writing to the believers in Corinth. Although the custom is different, the heart of the matter is subjection to the plan of authority ordained by God. From that, we have much to learn and apply.

### DAY ONE: Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 has been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

**Verse 1**

**Verses 2-16**

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God, Jesus, Paul, man, woman* and *the recipients of the letter*.

New to this lesson: *glory, cover(ed)/uncovered*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, add any information you feel is pertinent about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems** and **Commands**.
4. Paul uses the conjunction "but" nine times in this section. Mark each instance. Make a list of the times this key word is used and what the verse says.

## DAY TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 11:1

1. The first verse of 1 Corinthians 11 belongs with the last section of chapter 10. Paul, as in chapter 4, set himself before the believers as an example. Here again, he exhorts them to *imitate* him. Who has set the example for Paul to imitate?
  - a. In your own words, describe what it means to *imitate* someone.
  
  - b. Jesus gave us the perfect, sinless example. Paul has given us the example of how to follow Jesus. Considering the behavior of the Corinthian church at the time, what attributes or behaviors of Paul do you think they needed to consider and put into practice?
  
2. What can you learn from the examples given below?
  - a. Jesus: John 13:14-15  

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Peter 2:21-24
  
  - b. Paul: Philippians 3:12-17
  
  - c. Instructions given to Timothy: 1 Timothy 4:12
  
  - d. The prophets: James 5:10
  
3. It is a good thing to purpose to *imitate* Paul. What can we glean from Galatians 2:20 as far as how we can imitate Paul (and Jesus)?
  - a. Practically, how does a person live the *crucified* life?

## DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 11:2,3

1. Although 1 Corinthians is primarily a letter of exhortation, for what did Paul praise the Corinthians believers?

- a. *Traditions* are instructions or customs which have been passed down by word of mouth or in writing. The believers in Corinth paid attention to what Paul had told them, but were “slipping” in some areas. Chapter 11 addresses two public worship practices that needed correction: Communion, which we will deal with in Lesson 17, and the order of headship between men and women. According to verse 3, what did Paul *want them to know*?

1.) Draw a diagram illustrating this truth:

**GOD**



Challenge: Define the word *head* as it is used in this passage.

- 2.) Why do you think God established this chain of authority?
2. This *headship* spoken of in this passage does not imply inequality. How does Philippians 2:6 verify this?
3. Review God’s creation of man and women from Genesis 2:18,20-24. Why did God make woman?
- a. How does God’s ideal differ from that of our own culture?
- b. Whose guidance do you choose to follow and why?

1.) List some of the difficulties/hindrances in choosing:

God’s way:

The world’s way:

4. Each of the following verses instructs the wife to *submit* (place herself under the authority) to her husband. Record what each verse says about this *submission*.
  - a. Ephesians 5:22-24
  - b. Colossians 3:18
  - c. 1 Peter 3:1,5
  - 1.) What do you know about God's character that helps you to obey this command?

*Your goodness is so great!  
 You have stored up great blessings for those who honor you.  
 You have done so much for those who come to you for protection,  
 blessing them before the watching world.*  
 - Psalm 31:19 NLT

**DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 11:4-15**

1. In verses 4-6 Paul refers to social customs of the time. The veil represented subjection to authority. Following the theme of the preceding chapter, believers are urged to abide by the standards of their culture lest they offend. How might ignoring Paul's instruction hinder the witness of the Corinthian church in its community as well as cause problems in the church?
  - a. What was the man to do?
    - 1.) Why?
  - b. What was the woman to do?
    - 2.) Why? (include verse 10. Note: *because of the angels* refers to the fact that angels are watching during worship services)
2. Although the wearing or not wearing of *head coverings* was a custom at that time, the idea is one of encouraging the Christian woman not to fall prey to the customs of the world that *dishonor* God or her husband. What are some examples of this today?
3. Using verse 7, fill in the following blanks:
 

... man ... is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_;

... woman is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

  - a. According to 1 Corinthians 11:8 and 1 Timothy 2:13 what is Paul referring to?

4. *For indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake (1 Corinthians 11:9 NASB).* What does Genesis 2:18 say about this?
  
5. 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 begins with the word *nevertheless*. Paul is qualifying the authority that man has over woman. What did he say?
  - a. Explain this as you would to someone who was asking: if because man has authority over woman, is he also better or more important?
  
6. *Judge among yourselves...* (verse 13). Decide for yourself. Today, using Paul's criteria of hair in verses 13-16, we might come up with a different answer than he was looking for. However, Paul was pointing out that men and women are different. A man is to walk in his authority over his wife, knowing he is under the authority of Christ. A woman is to submit to her husband's authority. In chapter 11, Paul is showing that this authority is expressed through the wearing/not wearing of a head covering. What are some things that indicate to you whether a marriage has the proper authority structure or not?

*For the Lord's sake, accept all authority...*

- 1 Peter 2:13 NLT

#### **DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 11:16**

1. *But if anyone wants to argue about this, all I can say is that we have no other custom than this, and all the churches of God feel the same way about it (1 Corinthians 11:16 NLT).* To paraphrase, Paul was saying, "If after all I have said anyone still doesn't agree, we apostles know of no other church doing otherwise". How should this statement cause a person to go along with a command, even though they might not agree?
  
2. In what ways does Paul's philosophy, as explained in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22, reflect the kind of thinking required in a situation where you may not be in agreement about a decision of the church?
  - a. What should be our criteria in deciding whether we should stand for our opinions or let them go?

## DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

1. Paul was concerned about the behavior of the Corinthian believers during church services. What was his concern as expressed in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What matters most to God about worship in the church?
  - a. How might disobedience to church *traditions* hinder that?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In what ways could this passage be misinterpreted or misapplied?
  - a. How would you explain its proper application?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What thoughts do you have regarding God's design of *headship*?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Share one thing from this lesson that impacted you.

*Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you.*

*You are doing this already, and we encourage you to do so more and more.*

*- 1 Thessalonians 4:1 NLT*

## Scripture References for Lesson 16

### DAY TWO

**John 13:14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

**John 13:15** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

**Ephes. 5:1-2** Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

**1 Peter 2:21-24** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: <sup>22</sup>"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; <sup>23</sup>who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; <sup>24</sup>who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

**Philip. 3:12-17** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. <sup>16</sup>Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. <sup>17</sup>Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

**1 Tim. 4:12** Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

**James 5:10** My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### DAY THREE

**Philip. 2:6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

**Genesis 2:18** And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

**Genesis 2:20-24** So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup>Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>And Adam said: "*This is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

**Ephes. 5:22-24** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup>Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

**Col. 3:18** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

**1 Peter 3:1** Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

**1 Peter 3:5** For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

**Psalm 31:19** Oh, how great *is* Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, *Which* You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!

## DAY FOUR

**1 Tim. 2:13** For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

**Genesis 2:18** And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

**1 Peter 2:13** Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,

## DAY FIVE

**1 Cor. 9:19-22** For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; <sup>20</sup>and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; <sup>21</sup>to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law; <sup>22</sup>to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.