

Studies in First Corinthians

NT Survey Lesson 97--1 Corinthians 11

Introduction: As the letter continues Paul speaks to the Corinthians about various matters that need attention. In this chapter he addresses two problems. First there was not proper respect for the order of headship when spiritual gifts were being exercised. Second, the Lord's Supper was being turned into a common meal.

Lesson aim: To encourage the student to understand the order of headship and the proper way to observe the Lord's Supper.

Paul discusses the matter of headship in relation to the use of spiritual gifts--1 Cor. 11:1-16

(Special note: During the N.T. era both women and men were endowed by the Spirit to give revelations from God in the form of prophesy and prayer. See Ac. 2:17-18; Ac. 21:8-9. This special situation did not nullify the order of headship established by God from the creation. In keeping with this principle, women were instructed to veil their heads when giving revelations from God. Men were instructed to leave their head uncovered. By observing this tradition in this way, they would show their respect for the order of headship).

1. What did Paul urge the Corinthians to do in verse one? Would this verse seem to fit better with the last paragraph of chapter 10?
2. What had Paul delivered to the church when he established it? Why did Paul want to praise the Corinthians?
3. Who is the head of Christ? Of man? Of woman? Of God?
4. A man who prayed or prophesied with something on his head dishonored his head. Who is that?
5. A woman who prayed or prophesied with something on her head dishonored her head. Who is that?
6. If a prophesying woman refused to cover her head, she was one and the same as the woman who did what?

7. Why were prophesying men not to cover their head?
8. Why was it necessary for the woman to have a symbol of authority on her head?
9. When God made woman did he give her a covering? What? Did he make the man with long hair or short?
10. If then God covered the woman for prayer under ordinary circumstances with long hair, would it be right for her to be uncovered in the extraordinary circumstance of praying by inspiration? If the woman refused to cover her head, would it be the same as if she shaved her hair off?
11. Was this custom of women covering the head and men leaving the head uncovered in praying or prophesying, practiced by churches of Christ in other places?

Abuse of the Lord's Supper is corrected--1 Cor. 11:17-34

1. Were the Corinthians coming to together for the better or for the worse? (Which?)
2. First, there were what in the church at Corinth? (v. 18) Why did Paul say he believed this in part?
3. Why did Paul say that the Corinthians no longer were gathering to eat the Lord's Supper? (v. 21)
4. Where did Paul say the Corinthians could eat their meals? What were they doing to those who were poor?
5. What are the two elements in the Lord's Supper? What is the fruit of the vine called here? Is this the container or the liquid in the container?
6. What do the bread and fruit of the vine represent respectively?
7. When we observe the Lord's Supper we proclaim his _____ until he _____.

8. To fail to remember the Lord's death when we observe the Lord's Supper is to be guilty of the _____ and _____ of the Lord.
9. What then should each person do as he partakes of the bread and fruit of the vine?
10. What was the condition of some of the members at Corinth because they were not worshipping properly?
11. When by teaching or correction we are judged as sinners, it is so that we might not be _____ along with the world.
12. What did Paul instruct the church to do before partaking of the supper?
Would this eliminate the problem of divisions or cliques?
13. What did Paul tell those who were hungry to do?