

CHAPTER 32.5
My People
in this ***City***

“LOVE BEFORE...”
1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1
February 11, 2018

Love governs liberty.

- I. Love builds. (8:1-13)
 - A. Love vs. knowledge (8:1-3)
Knowledge puffs up -> self
Love builds up -> others
 - B. True knowledge bows before the majestic Creator. (8:4-6)
 - C. Knowledge can destroy (8:7, 10-12)
 - D. Love before knowledge (8:8-9, 13)
- II. Love doesn't demand its rights. (9:1-27)
 - A. Love prioritizes sharing the gospel.
 - B. Love produces the discipline of self-denial in order to spread the gospel. (9:24-27)
- III. Love for God extinguishes other cravings. (10:1-22)
 - A. Don't confuse blessings with God's pleasure in us. (10:1-5)
 - B. Our desires and cravings define our worship. (10:6-13)
 - C. Love for God makes us flee from idolatry. (10:14-22)
- IV. Love constrains us to seek God's glory through sharing the gospel without anything in our lives that could hinder its reception. (10:23 – 11:1)
 - A. Love for the glory of God governs our freedoms. (10:23, 31)
 - B. Love for others governs our freedoms (use of rights). (10:24-30)
 - C. Love for God's glory and love for others means the unhindered spread of the gospel governs my life. (10:31 – 11:1)

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

“WORSHIP: PROPER REVERENCE”
1 Corinthians 11

Passage Overview:

In chapters 11 – 14, Paul addresses worship within the Corinthian church. We will look at chapter 11 by itself and then 12-14 as a group.

At first glance, it seems that there is little to no connection between the first 16 verses of chapter 11 and the remainder of this chapter. After all, what do head coverings have to do with the Lord's table? But there is a problem of misconduct that ties these two aspects of worship together. The Spirit of God connects a lack of respect for fellow believers in the body to their disrespect for God in worship.

There was a pervasive and dominant custom (both Jewish and Greco-Roman) in the 1st century for women to wear a head covering. As we have already seen in this letter, the Corinthian believers greatly valued their newfound freedom in Christ. Their celebration of this freedom caused some men and women to disregard accepted customs as a sign of personal liberation. However, in so doing, they were also ignoring the clear patterns of order and respect, which God Himself had established for His people.

The radical truth of equal value before God had been grasped by many in the church. Yet this equality is intertwined with interdependence upon each other and utter dependence upon God. Herein was their problem. They had disregarded God's plan for order and interdependence within the community. Worship must express all of these truths in reverence of God.

Disregard for one another was even evident as they took communion. Self-centered excesses on the part of some left other believers in a position of great neglect. Reverence for Christ's sacrifice was disingenuous when they were mistreating one another, for whom Christ died. This resulted in God's judgment.

True worshipers bow before their Creator and Savior with a reverence that is also expressed by how they treat one another. Dependence upon God, interdependence upon one another, and respect for God ordained patterns of order, create an environment in which worship thrives.

Reading for Next Week: 1 Corinthians 11