

CHAPTER 32.6
My People
in this ***City***

“WORSHIP: PROPER REVERENCE”
1 Corinthians 11:2-34
February 18, 2018

Respectful relationships promote reverential worship.
Self-centeredness is inconsistent with worship of our God.

- I. Worship of God requires recognition of God’s order.
 - A. The Problem:
 - Some women were expressing their freedom in Christ by rejecting cultural norms that reflected respect for husbands.
 - Some men were apparently expressing their elitism by covering their heads in worship.
 - B. The Solution:
Principles
 1. Essential Equality
 - Jesus and the Father (3)
 - Interdependence of men and women. (11-12)
 2. Functional Order
 - a. The Godhead (3)
 - b. Creation Order (8-9) (Gen 2)
Application:
 1. Primary expression of this is between husband and wife.
 2. There are distinctions between genders.
 3. Neither men nor women should elevate themselves.
- II. One Lord, One Supper, One Family in worship.
 - A. The Corinthian problem: the privileged and the poor. (20-22, 33-34)
 - B. The Lord’s Table reminds us that we are all equally brothers and sisters, saved by the same Savior by His grace.
 - C. Self-examination (27-32) would have focused on looking at their relationships with other believers to see if they had excluded others or put themselves in a privileged place.

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

“WORSHIP: SPIRITUAL GIFTS”
1 Corinthians 12-14

Passage Overview:

In the beginning of his letter, Paul acknowledged that the Corinthian believers “were enriched in him [Christ Jesus] in all speech and all knowledge”. But they struggled with divisiveness and arrogance. They needed to learn how the priority of love governs their relationships. In the Spirit’s teaching about the use of spiritual gifts several emphases surface, all exercised in love.

First, the gifts they have received are the results of God’s sovereign grace. They have no claim to greater importance or value based on their gifts. The same Spirit distributes each of the gifts as He desires, not as they desire. So humility, as the recipients of His grace, should characterize them.

Secondly, the unity of the body of Christ supersedes the individual roles of each member. No member can exist alone. They all need each other. Similarly, the gifts they are given are not for their own good, but for the benefit of the body.

Thirdly, God is a God of order. His people must be orderly in their worship as well. When each is concerned for the good of the other, and every member is equally valued, the gifts are not used to draw attention to the gifted individual, but for the good of the whole. The Spirit lays down clear guidelines for the use of the gifts, emphasizing the proper use of those gifts that were being misused among the believers.

But most importantly, the whole discussion of spiritual gifts is centered around the glorious exposition about love that is found in chapter 13. When these gifts are used in love, they powerfully build up the body of Christ. When they are used apart from love, they become disruptive and divisive; like a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Reading for Next Week: 1 Corinthians 12-14