

(1st Corinthians 11:1-34)
“A Church That Honors Christ”

~ INTRO ~

ALRIGHT...

- As we continue learning how to “apply Christianity”
 - Remember what Paul has been teaching the church.
- (chapter 8) *Think about your brother.*
- (chapter 9) *Surrender your rights for the sake of the gospel.*
- (chapter 10) *Be careful with your own heart!*

~ STUDY ~

AND NOW IN... (chapter 11)...

- Paul turns his attention... toward...
 - What was happening when the church gathered together.

AT FIRST GLANCE...

- This chapter can feel like Paul is jumping all over the place.
 - (Head coverings / men & women / division in the church
 - Communion / & judgment).

HOWEVER...

- Underneath these topics...
 - We should be aware of one basic lesson:
 - *Does the way we gather honor Christ?*

I’ve titled today’s message: “A Church That Honors Christ”

IDEA #1 – HONOR GOD’S ORDER (vv.1-16)

(v.1) Paul begins: “*Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*”

Then he commends them for holding to the “*traditions*” he delivered to them.

The “*traditions*” he doesn’t mean human ideas added to scripture.

- The Greek word paradosis...
 - Meaning: What was taught by oral or written teaching.

(2 Thess. 2:15) NKJV

(1st Corinthians 11:1-34)
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“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.”

The church doesn't invent Christianity for each new generation.

- We receive God's truth...
- We live under God's truth...
- And we pass on God's truth.

Methods can change...

- But the ministry of the word **MUST** remain!

HERE'S WHY THIS MATTERS...

(v.3)

“The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

THIS IS KNOWN AS THE DOCTRINE OF – **Headship**...

- Which is a God-given-order.

THE BIBLE **DOES NOT** TEACH...

- That one person is more valuable than another.

(v.3) SHOWS THREE RELATIONSHIPS...

- Christ is head of every man
- Man is the head of woman
- And God the Father is head of Christ

HERE'S THE LESSON:

*“Biblical authority is **NOT** about who is more important. It's about **HOW** God has ordered relationships.”*

(Gen. 2:18) & (Phil. 2:5-8) NKJV

OK...

- Paul now moves into head coverings (vv.4-6).
 - And this is where we can easily get confused.

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The cultural significance of the head covering is often debated.

HOWEVER... Paul’s concern is clear:

- The way Christians worship should not communicate...
 - Rebellion
 - Sexual impropriety
 - Rejection of God’s order
 - Or the dishonoring of others

CHURCH...

- We don’t want to get stuck in the culture dilemma of that day...
 - By asking... “*Do women need something on their heads?*”

LISTEN...

- The take away is bigger.
 - **Are you honoring Christ in worship?**

PRACTICALLY...

- Anything in worship that intentionally draws attention to ourselves...
 - Rather than Christ... should cause us to examine our hearts.

NEXT...

- Paul balances the discussion in (vv. 11-12).
 - Biblical order does not mean independence.
 - Because men and women need one another...
 - But ultimately everything comes from God.

(vv.11-12) actually emphasizes “*interdependence*.”

PAUL CLOSES THE TOPIC IN (v.16)

- If someone just wants to argue about this...
 - That argumentative spirit is not how the church operates.

IDEA #2 – HONOR GOD’S PEOPLE (vv. 17-22)

In (v.2) he praised them for holding to what they had been taught

- But in (v.17) he couldn’t commend them.

SO...

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- Let us recognize that he’s addressing the same heart problem.
 - It’s just in a different area.

He says...

“You come together NOT for the better BUT for the worse.”

(vv.18-22)

WITHOUT DIGGING AROUND IN THEIR DILEMMA...

- I think we should just receive the lesson:

We cannot honor the Head while dishonoring the body.

WE BELONG TO ONE ANOTHER...

- Because we belong to Christ.

CHRISTIAN MATURITY...

- Isn’t merely demonstrated by how we worship God vertically.
 - It shows up in how we treat people horizontally.

IN OTHER WORDS...

- We live out what we believe.

IDEA #3 – HONOR GOD’S TABLE (vv.23-34)

AS THE CHAPTER CLOSES...

- Notice what Paul does to a divided church...
 - It’s so subtle.
 - He brings them **back to the Cross**.

At the foot of the cross nobody gets to boast.

- We all come the same way.
 - Sinners saved by grace.

At the Communion table we look in three directions.

- **Look back** — *“Do this in remembrance of Me”* (v.24).
 - Remember the Cross.

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“*A Church That Honors Christ*”

- **Look within** — “*examine yourself*” (v.28).
- **Look forward** — “*Christ is coming again*” (v.26)

LET’S TOUCH ON (v.28) AGAIN.

- Don’t misunderstand what he’s saying.

He’s not saying...

- *Make sure you're worthy before you come.*
 - That’s impossible and none of us would come.

The Lord’s Table isn’t for Christians who think they have everything together.

- It’s for believers who know they stand entirely by the grace of Jesus.

~ IN CLOSING ~

WHEN THE CHURCH GATHERS TOGETHER...

- We don’t gather around ourselves.
 - We gather around Christ.
- We honor Christ by submitting to His truth.
 - We honor Christ by loving His people.
 - And we honor Christ by remembering His cross.

That’s what a healthy church looks like...

- A repentant people that looks to God...
 - For grace & mercy & love & truth.

A healthy church is “*A Church That Honors Christ*”