



1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

Community Group Study Guide Week of July 14, 2019

This week we looked at the first half of 1 Corinthians 11, where Paul shifts his focus and begins addressing some of the issues the Corinthians were having in their worship gatherings. There were people getting drunk at Communion, speaking in tongues with no interpreters, and their services were becoming chaotic and unfruitful. Paul will later diagnose their issues as stemming from a lack of love. In this passage, he writes to address how their love for one another should be reflected in the way they dress, present themselves, and honor God's ordained order of authority for the Church and the home.

Paul commends the Corinthians for keeping certain "traditions" that he had passed down to them, but he writes that he wants them to "understand, that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God." Behind the cultural practices there were keeping was the timeless principle of male Headship. The Corinthians outward expression of this principle was meant to be symbolic of Christ's husbandly headship over the Church, and God's Fatherly headship over Jesus Christ.

When properly understood the doctrine of Headship is a beautiful thing which reflects the Gospel and the nature of the Godhead onto the practical surfaces of our lives. It bears witness that within the eternal unity of the Godhead there is a distinction between the members in which authority and submission are both practiced in loving service to one another. It is also a sign to the world that at the crux of human history is humble servant hearted man, Jesus Christ, who used his authority to lay down his life in loving service, and sacrificed everything for His bride the Church.

Throughout our passage this week, Paul helps the Corinthians connect some of their cultural practices to this timeless principle of Headship. While their expressions of this principle might not directly apply to us today, we should strive to discern from their example the culturally appropriate ways that we can live this out together. As we do, we show the world that both masculinity and femininity are good gifts from God, and when when authority is used in a Christlike manner submission becomes a joy and a delight. Sinful worldly authority is used to serve oneself at the expense of others, but Christlike authority always serves other even at the expense of ones self.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the principle of headship that stands behind the cultural practices described in this passage.

Heart

To grow in humility and trust the goodness of God design for headship in the Church and the home.

Hands

To "love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." (Romans 12:10)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact
admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact
andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

- Throughout this text, Paul is helping the Corinthians connect some of their cultural **practices**, to the timeless doctrine and **principle** of Headship. What can we learn from these practices, even if they don't directly apply to us or communicate the same thing in our culture as they would have in theirs?
- How do we see both equality/distinction, and authority/submission within the Trinity?
- How should the headship of the Father over the Son, and the headship of Jesus over the church, shape and safeguard the way we practice headship in the home (husbands and wives), and in the household of God (Pastors and church members)?
- What are some ways we can apply the principles of Christlike authority and submission in our secular environments (work, school, etc.) as a testimony to the Gospel?
- Wrapped up in this passage is the need for Christians to embrace their God-given gender, and express that gender in culturally appropriate ways that honor Christ. How would you lovingly defend the goodness of gender, and God's design for gender, to a friend or a new Christian who believes gender is irrelevant or has nothing to do with our biology?
- Men, would you agree that you are tempted or prone to abdicate your masculinity by acting passive, or overly aggressive? What are some ways you see that play out practically, and how do you fight against it?
- Women, would you agree that you are prone to perfectionism, or tempted to compare yourself to others? If so, what are some ways you see that play out practically and how do you fight against it?
- What other insights or applications has this passage and sermon given you in regard to gender, singleness, marriage, leadership, etc.?