

## From Sinners to Saints

### 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

- Paul ended his discourse with the Corinthians about questions concerning eating foods and Christian liberties, saying that if what we do stumbles others then we should avoid it, for we have no rights, no entitlements, except let everything that we do be done for the glory of God period! This will allow the believer to practice **10:24** > “let no one seek his own, but each one the other well being” dying to self.

#### V1-16

- **V1-2** Paul tells them to “**follow his example**” as he follows “**Christ example**” and in doing so you will be obedient to the teachings that you have been given. Every believer should want to be able to say what Paul just shared with the Corinthian Church, “**follow me**” it will lead you to Christ, for that is where I am going!
- The problem arises when you are asked to follow someone or something, or do it on your own, and it doesn’t lead to Jesus but to a counterfeit, that’s when people get into the most trouble. We are all familiar with the phrase “**order in the court**” well Paul switches to something that is very important for the body and that is “**order in the Church**”, for just as disorder in a courtroom is unproductive and confusing, it’s the same in a Church setting, and Paul is going to address this problem now.
- On speaking of order within the Church, the one thing the Christian faith brought that didn’t exist before it was freedom and hope for all people. That meant regardless of race, gender, social status, all were equal before God. So in the Roman and Greek society there were slaves and laws concerning them, gender biases and laws concerning them, social classes and laws concerning them, but in God’s sight and therefore within the Church all were the same, there could be no favoritism.
- During this time people’s lives were dictated by their social status, whether they were a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>, class citizen, and that was determined by how much property you owned, and how many slaves you had working for you. Then whether you were a man or woman, married or single, determined how you were accepted. So you could be rich but not accepted based upon your gender, marital status, and how you became wealthy, none of these things are biblical, as Christianity corrected all this.

- **V3-5** now of course with all this new found freedom naturally there was a lot of confusion, which led to much disorder in Church services, Paul now seeks to correct past errors. **V2** notice before he rebukes, he praises them for following the teachings they did understand, never just tear into someone that you're trying to set straight, always remember to commend them for the things they are doing right.
- Starts with the principle of headship, all throughout the Bible we read about order with God, the Heavens, and on the earth with His creation. People don't like to hear that scripture says there is a Father, a Son, and a Holy Spirit, and these three although distinct in function are Co-equal within One Godhead (The Trinity) and we don't completely understand it but The Bible teaches it therefore we believe it.
- **God The Father**- The Ultimate Authority, The planner of salvation, Who directs The Son and The Spirit. **God The Son**- The Word made flesh, The Mediator, Who acting in obedience to The Father, became human, died, and rose again to accomplish salvation. **God The Holy Spirit**- The sustainer Who convicts us before salvation, empowers us after salvation, and guides and directs us to fulfil The will and purposes of The Father and Son > **1 Jn 5:7** says these Three are One.
- Headship is essential in Christianity and in the Church, for it establishes order, authority, and accountability. Head has the idea of authority, it means to have the responsibility to lead, and afterward now there's accountability for others to follow. In this Paul describes three headship relationships > 1<sup>st</sup> Jesus is the Head of every man, 2<sup>nd</sup> man is the head of woman, and 3<sup>rd</sup> God The Father is Head of Christ.
- In ancient culture because of the desert and the sun men would have a covering for their heads so they would catch a sun stroke, my grandfather was a farmer he never went out into the sun in the fields without his straw hat.
- When it came time to pray culturally it was inappropriate for men to pray under a head covering, and it was inappropriate for women to pray without a head covering, also for women head covering could mean a veil, it was a public symbol of being under authority or protection of another. The only women that went without veils were prostitutes as they weren't under authority or had protection from anyone.

- So these were customs that Paul had earlier applauded them for keeping as they didn't go against scripture but illuminated scripture. So men were not to cover their heads while praying, as they weren't under authority to man but only Jesus Who doesn't require it, but women were to cover their heads as they were under man.
- **V6-10** if a woman chooses to demonstrate that she is not under authority she should then shave her head, often in Jewish culture that was the punishment given to an adulteress Num 5. **V7-10** explain the spiritual relevance of men not covering their heads as they came first from God, and women then created by God came from man, so as a symbol of her being under authority she was asked to cover.
- Remember in the garden during creation Adam was given responsibility over Eve, it wasn't until the fall that Eve then sought to rule and rebel against authority > **Gen 3:16**- its because of the fall that a wife desire is to rule over her husband, ladies that's a fight that you'll have until our bodies are redeemed as its part of the curse.
- **V11-12** with order comes unity, just because man is head and responsible for leading their home and the Church doesn't mean he is independent of women. In fact he desperately needs her for the Church to run effectively, for he says as woman came from man, man comes through woman, isn't that amazing. After Adam men we could not even come into this world without women, so that shuts down the male pride and ego right there, God is His amazing wisdom.
- **V13-16** after all of the explaining and examples Paul ends with this concerning this section, depending on cultures and customs which change over time if any of this causes division or discord don't worry you are not to be dogmatic, as this is not the gospel just an illustration about creation, order, and authority. I've seen churches have fights over head coverings, veils, pants, which **V16** we have no such customs, during Paul's teachings he didn't require any of this he just explained its meanings.