

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:13



12: *It's All About Relationships* (1 Cor 10:23-11:16)

The Christian life is all about relationships - how we love God and how we love people - our family, our faith family, and our non-Christian friends & acquaintances. Today we are reminded how we are to interact with these precious people because...**it's all about relationships.**

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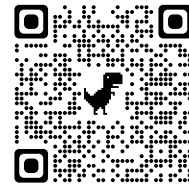
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teachingnotes

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VISUAL NOTES

The Corinthian Church was **a beautiful mess**. They were people who Jesus died for and made holy, but some of them sure weren't acting like it.

- ✗ Some were picking sides over which pastor they liked better (Paul, Apollos, Cephas) - as if these guys were really trying to compete rather than work together for the Kingdom.
- ✗ Some claimed Christ yet were living in sexual sin while many in the church acting like that was okay, rather than confronting, correcting, and restoring them.
- ✗ Some were taking other Christians to court rather than asking spiritual leaders for help to resolve the relational strain.
- ✗ Many were more concerned with their own **FREEDOMS** than the **FAITH** of younger believers.
- ✗ Some got drunk at the Lord's Supper and refused to wait on others for the meal - getting the best food first.

The Christian Life is all about relationships.

That includes **how we love God and how we love people** - how we treat our family, our faith family, and our non-Christian friends & acquaintances. Today we are reminded how we are to interact with these precious people because...**it's all about relationships.**

Remember this Quote?

1 Corinthians 6:12 (CSB) "Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but **I will not be mastered by anything.**

While we might have the freedom to do whatever we want to do, that doesn't mean everything we choose will be beneficial for us. In fact, living in this sort of 'freedom' leads to slavery in sin. The follower of Jesus should **not be mastered by anything** except Jesus Christ. For Christians, freedom does not mean anarchy, but responsibility.

Love is to Seek the Good of Others

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (CSB) "Everything is permissible," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible," but not everything builds up. No one is to **seek** his own good, but **the good of the other person.**

Are we people who **seek the good of others**? That's what **LOVE** does. Love is to have others' best interest in mind - our family, friends, and even enemies - to seek their good. Christians are to be known as those who **build up others** instead building up ourselves. Or, are we following our culture's claim that "*I can do whatever I want... and you shouldn't say I can't.*" - claiming **everything is permissible**?

This is Our Father's World

1 Corinthians 10:25-26 (CSB) Eat everything that is sold in the meat market, without raising questions for the sake of conscience, since **the earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.** [Ps 24:1]

The Scriptures *do* refer to the devil as the "god of this world" (2 Cor 4:4 ESV, NAS, KJV) - better translated "god of this age" (CSB, NET, NIV, NKJV) and the "ruler of this world" (Jn 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; Eph 2:2). **What does that mean?** Satan has authority over this evil age & those who live in worldly disobedience to God. But **the earth does not belong to the devil - it belongs to our Creator - our One True God.** All the people, animals, and plants that exist do so because **the earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.**

The old hymn "This is My Father's World"

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so
strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!

Paul agrees that **the earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it**, so you can eat whatever food you want - it doesn't belong to false gods, it belongs to the One True God!

Caring for Others' Conscience

1 Corinthians 10:27-28 (CSB) If any of the unbelievers invites you over and you want to go, eat everything that is set before you, without raising questions for the sake of conscience. But if someone says to you, "This is food from a sacrifice," **do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who told you**, and for the sake of **conscience.**

If **someone** says **this food is from a sacrifice**, then it is likely a concern for them, and even though it isn't a concern for you (because all food is given by God) you should **not eat it out of consideration** for the other person's **conscience.** We should value our brother/sister's FAITH over our person FREEDOM.

Why Should My Freedom Be Constrained?

1 Corinthians 10:29-30 (CSB) I do not mean your own conscience, but the other person's. For **why is my freedom judged by another person's conscience?** If I partake with thanksgiving, why am I criticized because of something for which I give thanks?

Good question - **Why am I judged when I'm not disobeying the Scriptures**, when my conscience is clear, and when I am even giving God thanks for the food or drink He has provided? **It's all about relationships** - our relationship to God, our relationships to other Christians, and our relationships to non-Christians.

It's All About Relationships!

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 (CSB) So, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.** Give no offense to Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I also **try to please everyone in everything**, not seeking my own benefit, but the benefit of many, **so that they may be saved.** Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.

- ✓ First, our desire should be to **do everything for the glory of God**, in all things.
- ✓ Second, our desire should be to **give no offense** to lost people (**Jews or Greeks**) nor to fellow followers of Jesus (**the church of God**). Instead, we should try to **please everyone in everything.**
- ✗ Never dilute the truth or dodge confrontation when necessary. (Sharing the Gospel message confronts people with their sin and need for a Savior.) Paul's whole point is for Christians to make the maximum impact on others by being gentle, kind, servants who sacrifice their own freedoms **so that** others **may be saved.**

Paul challenges Christians to **imitate** his example.

① Am I imitating Paul's example?

② Am I patiently & graciously sharing the Gospel with others?

③ Am I serving, loving, and consistently sharing with others - **so that they may be saved?**

Relationships at Home

1 Corinthians 11:2-3 (CSB) Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to know that **Christ is the head of every man**, and the **man is the head of the woman**, and **God is the head of Christ**.

The ancient world didn't wrestle with our culture's foolish concept of more than 2 genders - Paul refers to 2 genders - **MAN** and **WOMAN**.

✓ Jesus echoes Genesis: God created mankind in His image, making them **male** and **female** - 2 genders (Mt 19:4-6; Gen 1:27, 5:1-2). The Old Testament shows that God expects His people to recognize the distinctions between men and women by not wearing the same kinds of clothing (Deut 22:5).

✓ In this passage, Paul makes sure to clarify that Christians are to recognize the distinct differences between men and women, and not blur the lines between the sexes.

✗ Our Christ-less culture is LYING, telling people that there are multiple genders & you get to choose.

People need to know that they are valuable to God - created the gender that He decided. Those who disagree have not yet gone too far for God's grace, but WE can't feed the lie that denies God's TRUTH.

God is the head of Christ. Those who follow Jesus' teachings recognize 1 GOD in 3 PERSONS (Trinity) - God the Father, Son, & Spirit. Jesus is God with skin on Who created all things (Jn 1:1-3). Multiple passages demonstrate that Jesus is equal with the Father (Jn 5:18, 21-23, 17:5; Phil 2:5-11), yet Jesus submitted to **God** the Father as His **head** - His authority while on Earth (Jn 5:19-20, 6:38). While the Father and Son were EQUAL, the Son modeled what a submitted life looked like - trusting **God** the Father as His authority **head**.

🌟 **Craig Blomberg**: "Part of our problem lies in our inability to see submission and equality as simultaneously possible."¹

Christ is the head of every man - Jesus is the authority over all of us. All that we do - even what we eat or drink - is to honor Jesus (1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:17) - the authoritative **head** of our lives. So too, what we wear, how we worship, and how we treat others is to demonstrate that Jesus is **the head** - the spiritual authority over our lives. The Lord Jesus Himself is the model for manhood.

❓ What could God do through MEN who recognize & submit to Jesus as our **head** authority?

The man is the head of the woman. This does NOT mean that all men have authority over your wife. The Greek terms for *man* and *woman* are translated as *husband* or *wife* in other passages, based on the context. It seems best to interpret this passage as referring to husbands and wives as well.²

This makes sense in light of Paul's other teachings like Ephesians 5:22-33.

Ephesians 5:22-23, 25 (CSB) Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, because **the husband is the head of the wife** as **Christ is the head of the church**...Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her

Just as the Father and the Son are *EQUAL*, and just as Jesus submitted to the Father as His head authority while on Earth, so too - **wives** - while *EQUAL* to spouses - are to **submit to your husbands** because husbands are intended to be the **head** of your family. **Husbands**, are given the responsibility to be the authority who *SHOULD* direct, protect, and **love your wives** so much that you - like Jesus would give your life to protect hers. Don't tell her to submit to your authority if you refuse to submit to Jesus as your authority.

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

It's all about relationships

WRITE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

¹ Craig Blomberg, 1 Corinthians, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), 223.

² Ibid., 209-210.

Our love for Jesus should cause us to care for 1) those *outside* our faith (non-Christians), 2) for those *inside* our homes (husbands & wives), and 3) for **those among our Church**.

Relationships Among the Church

1 Corinthians 11:4-6 (CSB) Every **man** who **prays** or **prophesies** with something on his head dishonors his head. Every **woman** who **prays** or **prophesies** with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since that is one and the same as having her head shaved. For if a woman doesn't cover her head, she should have her hair cut off. But if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her head be covered.

Prophecies are never without an audience. While *a person can certainly pray in private*, the issue Paul addresses is about a **man** or **woman** who **prays or prophesies** in public - most likely during the Church gatherings.

- Paul points to a freedom for women that Jewish synagogues didn't have - the ability to be full participants in religious gatherings. Women in synagogues sat behind a veil and not considered full members.³ But Christian women were allowed to **pray** or **prophesy** in the meetings - as long as their heads are covered.

WHY cover their heads & why don't WE practice that today?

- Paul was addressing **a cultural custom** that was true for most of the Mediterranean world - Gentile and Jewish.
- This **cultural custom** reinforced **the biblical principle** that the husband is the head of the wife as Jesus is head over the church (Eph 5:22-23).
- Different than our cultural customs, it was understood that a woman who didn't cover her head while praying or prophesying in public **dishonors her head** = she dishonors her husband or father.

❓ Are we to practice every **cultural custom** OR...is there **a Biblical principle** that we must keep in practice?

- Paul also tells Christians to "greet each other with a holy kiss" (Rm 16:16, 1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12, 1 Thes 5:26)...but we don't practice that cultural custom. **There IS a Biblical principle that we SHOULD practice** - greeting one another and caring for one another.

Head coverings are the cultural custom of *that* day that we don't practice *today*. We might not practice the cultural custom of the Mediterranean world (head coverings), but **we SHOULD practice the same Biblical principle - submission to the authorities God has put into our lives**.

God's Creative Order for the Family

1 Corinthians 11:7-10 (CSB) A **man** should not cover his head, because he **is the image and glory of God**. So too, **woman is the glory of man**. For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man. Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man. This is why a woman should have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

The Biblical order from CREATION: **man** was created by God out of the dust of the ground (Gen 2:7), **in the image and glory of God**. Man was intended to bring glory to God. **Men are to lead the family & the church** - that's the order that God has given us. **A man should not cover his head** because he is under the direct authority of God; the MAN is the HEAD over his family.

Woman came from man. God gifted **man** with **woman** (Gen 2:21-22) to complete what **man** was lacking in himself - **woman was created for the sake of man**.

- So, while Eve was to be Adam's *EQUAL*, she was not to be *IDENTICAL* - she had a different role to play. Man and woman were both created in the image of God (Gen 1:27).
- **Man is the image of glory of God** - showing the incredible creation God makes for & from Himself.
- **Woman** is the image of God (Gen 1:27) and **the glory of man** - showing the incredible creation God makes for & from man.⁴ Women are to recognize God's design for the family & the church - **to live under the leadership of godly men**. *The head covering was a symbol* of submission to the head **authority** in her life (i.e. husband, father, or spiritual male leaders in the church).

This is also **because of the angels** - the powerful, intelligent beings who submit to their Master in heaven rather than pursue their own plans - as Satan had done. Women are to follow the example of obedient angels. (Some interpreters think this points to angels watching over the created order - guardians of God's people who even watch people worship God - 1 Tim 5:21).

³ Stephen T. Um, 1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 196-197.

⁴ John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Corinthians, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 258.

God's Plan - Men & Women Working Together

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 (CSB)

In the Lord, however, **woman is not independent of man**, and **man is not independent of woman**. For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman, and all things come from God.

God made us to be brothers and sisters who work together to further His kingdom as we Love God, Love People, and Develop Disciples!

Celebrate & Appreciate the Differences

1 Corinthians 11:13-16 (CSB)

Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair it is a disgrace to him, but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her as a covering. If anyone wants to argue about this, we have no other custom, nor do the churches of God.

Men and women are EQUAL but not IDENTICAL. Both play important roles, but they are different roles. We are NOT to dilute the distinctions. The cultural norm in Paul's day and for most culture since was LONG HAIR for woman and SHORT HAIR for men (the Nazarite vow taken by Samson is an exception - Judg 13:5).

MEN are to act like MEN, and WOMEN are to act like WOMEN - ALL under the authority of God.

THAT is the Biblical principle that the cultural customs of that day pointed to - and that principle should be true of the church of Jesus for all people in all places at all times.

➡ We should appreciate and celebrate the distinctions of God's created order as we remember that...

It's all about relationships

Our love for Jesus should cause us to care for...

- Care for **those outside our faith** (non-Christians)
- Care for **those inside our homes** (husbands & wives), and
- Care for **those among our Church.**

Feet to Faith

1. **How can I pursue my spouse TODAY?** Serve your spouse. Communicate your love and appreciation for one another...EVERY DAY! Men - love your wives! Women - appreciate your husbands!
2. **How can I invest in my children TODAY?** Step into your child's room and brag on them! Communicate your love and cast vision for them...EVERY DAY!
3. **How can I encourage another Christian OR develop a friendship with a non-Christian who needs Jesus?** Ask God to guide you to these folks and let God use you to show the love of Jesus to others!

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives:** Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussion questions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain your answer.
2. **Read 1 Cor 10:23-24.** This is what LOVE is - seeking the good of others. Share about a time when someone LOVED another like this and showed the love of Jesus. How does this definition of love help you to better understand how it might be possible to love others - including an enemy?
3. **Read 1 Cor 10:25-26, Ps 24:1, Jn 12:31, 14:30, 16:11.** Based on these passages, although the devil is "god of this age" and "ruler" of the ungodly world, how do these passages encourage you to see who is really God over all things? Consider looking back at the lyrics of "This Is My Father's World" and share what most impacts you about the song lyrics.
4. **Read 1 Cor 10:27-11:1.** Why was Paul being so careful not to do anything to short-circuit the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus? What are some issues we might consider putting on the back burner in order to keep the message of Jesus on the front burner in our relationships with non-Christians?
5. **Read 1 Cor 11:2-3.** How does the example of Jesus (God the Son) submitting to God the Father ["God is the head of Christ"] help us to appreciate how a woman is equal with her husband while also being commanded to submit to his leadership as head of the family?
6. **Read Eph 5:22-32.** What about this passage demonstrates how spouses are to treat each other with value rather than treating one another as a butler or slave?
7. **Read 1 Cor 11:4-6.** How does Paul note the freedom that women have while also asking them to demonstrate their submission to their husbands (or spiritual leaders) among the Church? While we don't practice the symbol of head-covering, how might a woman honor the Biblical principle of submission to the spiritual head leader of the family (or leaders) among the Church gathering?
8. **Read 1 Cor 11:11-12.** What does this tell us about God's purpose for men and women who are "in the Lord"? What are some different ways that you have seen God use men and women to further the discipleship of others and the furthering of the Gospel message to our community and beyond?
9. What other questions has this teaching or discussion prompted for us to talk about?
10. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**