



Distinctly Unified

1 Corinthians 11:2–16 • Series: Table Manners • Adam Bailie • October 28, 2018

Big Idea

Gender distinction is a cross-cultural essential to supernatural local church unity.

Outline

Gender distinction and unity grow together, if...

1. You and I worship traditionally (2).
2. You and I understand uniformly (3).
3. You and I gather counter-culturally (4–6).
4. You and I reason biblically (7–10).
5. You and I relate equally (11–12).
6. You and I wrestle logically (13–15).
7. You and I engage peacefully (16).

Reflect

- For men: Ephesians 5:23 echoes 1 Corinthians 11:3, saying, “The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church.” What are some specific ways we see Christ’s authority exercised for the good of his bride? How can we imitate Christ?
- For women: In Corinth, it was a sign of disrespect for a wife to pray or prophesy with her head uncovered. Disregarding the head covering may suggest to others that she withdraws from her marriage or claims independence from her husband. What are some ways in our culture that you might be tempted to do the same?
- Both: Are there aspects of God’s call on you as a man/woman that are hard for you to joyfully embrace? What makes it hard for you? How are you working through these difficulties with the help of God, his Word, and his church?

Pray

- Pray that God would humble you and make you receptive to his Word, no matter how difficult it might be to conform to his will for your life.
- Pray for courage to live obedient to God’s Word in a world that is increasingly hostile to the idea of gender distinctions.
- Pray that the very gender distinctions the world despises would flourish in the church, leading to greater unity and more glory to God.
- Pray that God would give you wisdom to know how to properly express his unique call on your life as a man or a woman.

Discuss

- What should our mindset and heart attitude be as we approach parts of God’s Word that are potentially hard to receive?
- Setting aside the specific details for a moment, what’s the big idea Paul is getting at?
- What specific sinful thoughts or attitudes does this passage address?
- What are ways that our culture is seeking to erase gender distinctions? How can we further embrace gender distinctions in a way that will promote unity and glorify God?
- Read John 5:17–19. What does this verse teach us about the relationship between God the Son and God the Father? In submitting to the Father, is Jesus any less God? What does this teach us about submission in general?