



Go for God!

“LET’S IMITATE CHRIST!”

1 Corinthians Ch. 11

> Chapter Outline:

(v1-16) Culture vs. Creation!

(v17-22) Self-Centered Worship vs. Christ-Centered Worship!

(v23-34) Condemnation vs. Proclamation!

> (v1-16) Culture vs. Creation!

(v1-2) Whom do you imitate? We are called to IMITATE CHRIST!

- We must imitate His HEART OF LOVE; speak with His VOICE OF KINDNESS; put on the MIND OF CHRIST as Paul writes in Philippians 4:8-9 - *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

- In verse 2, Paul praises the brethren because they kept the *traditions*; the Greek word for *tradition* is “*paradoseis*” which speaks of *that which is passed along by teaching*. Teaching must come from the Word of God.

(v3) Here is God’s divine order: Christ, the Son of God, incarnate submitted Himself to the will of the Father, in John 4:34-35 - *"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish his work,* (also John 5:30; 6:38; 14:28).

- Scripture declares Christ did not forsake His deity, Philippians 2:5-11 - *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- The example of loving submission has been set: Christ submitted Himself to God the Father to the point of death, men and women are to submit themselves to God, Ephesians 5:17-21 - *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

(v4-16) As we read this passage we must understand the culture of the Corinthians, there were over 1000 prostitutes serving at the temple of Venus throughout the city and to show their devotion and occupation they would shave their hair or have it cut short. This was a common appearance of women as a sign of their worship and sexual liberation.

- Paul addresses this topic, whereas, to identify Christian women for their own good and sanctity. Paul also addresses the men's hair and appearance, whereas, men would be manly and not feminine. Men are not to look like women and women are not to look like men. Hair is not the issue for Christians, for in fact the vow of a Nazirite (i.e. Samson) was to not cut his hair, but the heart of the issue is to IMITATE CHRIST! Verse 16 basically sums up the issue, saying this is not the law for all Christians to look this one way, but it is advice for you Corinthians because of your culture.

> (v17-22) Self-Centered Worship vs. Christ-Centered Worship!

(v17-18) Self-centered fellowship is DIVISIVE!

(v19) Self-centered fellowship creates FACTIONS and exalts people ("*recognized among you*").

(v20-22) Self-centered fellowship is SELFISH & SINFUL – When Corinthian church would gather and have communion they would celebrate with what is called an "agape feast," but the agape had become gluttony for some and sloppy for others (getting drunk).

This should have been a time of Christian fellowship, what is true Christian fellowship? Unger's Bible dictionary says, "The *fellowship* believer's embrace is:

(1) *Confession of sins one to another with prayer (James 5:16);*

(2) *Assembly, with exhortation and stimulation to love and good works (Heb 10:24-25);*

(3) *Partaking of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:24-25);*

(4) *"Contributing to the needs of the saints" (Rom 12:13; 15:25; Acts 11:29; 1 Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor 8:4; Heb 13:16);*

(5) *Bearing the infirmities of the weak;*

(6) *And pleasing one's neighbor (Rom 15:1-2).*

- Love for and fellowship with one another are necessary to, and an evidence of, fellowship with God (1 John 4:12). Christ prayed that His people might have fellowship with each other (John 17:21). Fellowship with God is essential to fruitfulness (15:4-5).

- Acts 2:37-47 establishes the blueprint for church fellowship, let's read.

> (v23-34) Condemnation vs. Proclamation!

(23-26) There are two sacraments practiced within the Christian church, one is BAPTISM and the other is COMMUNION.

> Here Paul consecrates and sanctifies communion for the Corinthians; when we partake of communion we observe:

(1) *THE HOLINESS OF THE MOMENT.*

(2) *The BREAD broken; the body of Christ being sacrificed because HE LOVES US.*

(3) *In REMEMBRANCE, communion is a memorial, a reminder of Christ's life, love and hope of eternal life.*

(4) *The CUP was the third cup during the Passover Feast, known as the cup of blessing, this cup Jesus said is "the New Covenant in My blood," His blood shed for our sin. The Old Covenant*

was practiced repeatedly by the blood of animals offered by men; but the New Covenant has been ratified once and for all by the lamb of God, which is the blood atonement through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (cf. Heb. 9:28).

(5) Communion is a PROCLAMATION and celebration of our Savior's death, and resurrection; with an exuberant anticipation of His SECOND COMING.

(v27) What does it mean to partake of communion in an "unworthy manner"?

The word *unworthy* speaks of an *imbalance of weights*, in other words it reflects the attitude of the person partaking of communion is not in balance with solemnity or the importance of communion.

- This imbalance is weighted with a lack of reverence or gratitude, unrepentant sin, or bitterness toward fellow believers. The word "guilty" is *enochos* in Greek, which means *to be liable to the penal effect of a deed; here it involves the guilt of His death*.

(v28-29) "Let a man examine himself" – Judge yourself first, whereas you will not face the chastisement of the Lord. Let me quote a Bible commentary regarding this *examination*, "The word *examine* means *test*. All believers should examine their motives and actions. Certainly no one can earn the grace and forgiveness of God. But on the other hand, an honest self-examination will indicate whether one comes to the sacred table with proper motives and in active obedience to the Lord. Paul's exhortation is wholesomely positive. He does not say to examine oneself and leave the Lord's table in despair. Rather he counsels a man to search his heart and then in honest faith let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

(v30-32) Without repentance there may be chastisement resulting in weakness, sickness, or death. The word WEAK (*asthenes*) means *sickness*; the term SICKLY (*arrostos*) means *infirmity and decay*, while the word SLEEP (*koimaomai*) is used most frequently in the NT to indicate the "*death of those who belong to Christ*."

- The chastening of the Lord is found in Hebrews 12:3-11 - *Nor consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

(v33-34) Let us always come together in the love of Christ and in His love for one another!