

COMMENTARY

I CORINTHIANS 11

vs. 1-16:

Paul concludes in the first verse, his thoughts from the previous chapter (chapter and verse divisions were men's additions). He simply encourages them to follow his Christian example.

Paul now enters into an area that has been misunderstood by many. Paul reminds the Corinthians how everyone is under submission.

The topic of "veils" and/or "hats" should not at all be considered throughout this passage. Paul DOES NOT refer to veils (an addition by men through the years) but is referring to the length of hair (see verse 15 shows that the woman's hair is her covering and not an article of clothing--hat or veil!!! The woman's covering that is to be present is: long hair! The opposite is true for men. Paul says that for men to have hair that hangs down from their head (shoulder length, etc.) is a disgrace!

We are all responsible and dependent on one another. Therefore, we should consider our obligations and responsibilities in the example that we set.

vs. 17-34:

In Corinth they had a fellowship meal before communion (much as Jesus did when He instituted this memorial service). For the Corinthians, the meal prior to communion was a reminder of the division and lack of love between them, that existed. Some would gorge themselves while others had nothing and could find nobody to share. For this reason Paul suggest that they eat at home.

Paul reminds them of how communion was instituted and how by partaking we declare the Lord's death on our behalf. Since He has given the command and we are to think of Him, if we partake without considering and thinking of what we are doing, then we shall suffer in our spiritual lives and will be punished.

COMMENTARY

I CORINTHIANS 12

vs. 1-11:

Paul begins to explain that they are not to condemn a fellow-Christian, because they do things differently. He reminds them that if they are praising Jesus Christ and lifting Him up, then God is working through them. He goes on to list the various abilities that God gives and reminds them that each one is for the glory of God and the growth of Christ's Church!

vs. 12-31:

Paul reminds them that the Church is like the human body and is dependent on each part to carry out and perform their unique function in its' unique way. The Church need people with different abilities an responsibilities for it to function and grow.

In the early Church there were apostles (eye-witnesses of Jesus), prophets, teachers, miracle workers and healers (pove that they were from God), helpers, administrators, tongue speakers (were actual languages to help in advancing the gospel). Everyone has different gifts and abilities. You are no less a Christian if your gift is different from someone elses.

Paul then concludes with the idea that there are some gifts that are greater than others. He then closes with the promise to show them better way.

I CORINTHIANS 13

vs. 1-13:

Paul is now speaking of a more excellent way to live than the emphasis on spiritual gifts. He makes it clear that tongues, prophecy, faith, generosity are all nothing unless one is a loving person. He goes on to explain the type of Godlike love that we are to have.

The type of love that God wants us to have will allow us to accept one another without looking for fault and helping them remain faithful to the Lord and to grow in the process. This type of love is admirable and is praiseworthy.

Paul emphasizes that one of the reasons that love is greater is because it will endure. The miraculous gifts would no longer be needed to verify the message when the "perfect" item was come. This "perfect" thing cannot be a person but rather would be the complete Scriptures as we have them. They are accepted as the Word of God and are all that we need for spiritual maturity and growth. These other gifts will be done away with, for they are no longer needed.

COMMENTARY:

I CORINTHIANS 14

vs. 1-25:

Paul expresses that tongues (which was so sought after) was not near as great a gift and beneficial for the believers as the ability to proclaim God's will and teaching. This was the gift worth desiring.

If one did speak in tongues, nobody could understand and therefore the only thing accomplished would be the tongue speaker would be lifted up. The speaking in tongues was to be a sign for the unbeliever. Therefore, in worship, prophecy was far more beneficial for people could understand that!

vs. 26-40:

Even though everyone is to use their talent, it should be done in a matter of order for the benefit of strengthening the church. There is only to be speaking in tongues if there is an interpreter and not more than 2 should be speaking at a time. There was to be a limit of 3 prophets speaking throughout the course of the service.

Concerning women speaking in Church, Paul was speaking in regards to tongues. The women, under no condition, were to speak in tongues. Rather than causing an interruption (the women under consideration were uneducated) and taking precious time to go over it, the women are counselled to wait until they get home. Today, when the teacher asks for questions, they are giving the woman the right to speak and she would not be usurping authority.

I CORINTHIANS 15

vs. 1-11:

Paul reminds them that the gospel they believed rests on the fact that Christ rose from the dead. He goes on to cite evidence of this very fact. Well over 500 people, who had known Jesus prior to His death, saw Him alive again. This is the hope that we have.

vs. 12-34:

There were Christians teaching that the Resurrection was not ever going to be a reality. Paul made it clear that if that were true, then their faith was worthless for then Jesus could not have risen the 3rd day.

Paul re-affirms that Jesus did rise and that He will return to give life to those who have been faithful. Death will be done away with once and for all!

Paul mentions that there are some who are baptized for the dead (He mentions the group as: "THEY", not we; this demonstrates that he did not accept such a practice). These individuals would then be going through all that for nothing, if there was no resurrection of the dead.

Paul tells them not to allow others to turn them away from the truth, but to come back to it and live it!

vs. 35-58:

When asked about "how will the dead be raised?" and other questions, Paul teaches that we know not what we will look like, but we will have heavenly bodies. They will be different and far superior to our earthly bodies.

This transformation will take place when the trumpet sounds and Christ returns. Then death will be powerless because of the victory through Jesus.

Paul then challenges them to persevere!

I CORINTHIANS 16:

vs. 1- 4:

Paul instructs the Corinthians to take up an offering on the first day of the week to help the saints at Jerusalem.

vs. 5-18:

Paul informs them of his travel plans and the plans of some of his helpers. He then reminds them to be faithful and to do everything in love. They are to work together with others who will come and help them until Paul arrives.

vs. 19-24:

Paul then sends his closing greetings to them and closes the letter.

STUDY GUIDE

I CORINTHIANS 11

1. Who is the head of man and who is the head of woman?
2. How do men and women dishonor their head?
3. Why should men not cover his head with long hair?
4. Who are not independent, in the Lord?
5. What is a disgrace to a man?
6. What was among them, when they came together as a Church?
7. What did Paul say they were not eating?
8. What did Jesus say about the break?
9. What did Jesus say about the cup?
10. What are we proclaiming until Jesus returns?
11. What is the one who partakes unworthily, doing?
12. What is happening when we are being judged by the Lord?

BONUS:

1. What difference would the length of hair make?
2. Why is the Lord's Supper important to the Christian?
3. How does God discipline us?

STUDY GUIDE

I CORINTHIANS 12:

1. What is the only way people can say, "Jesus is Lord"?
2. In verse 4-6, what does Paul say are different?
3. What are the various gifts?
4. Where do all the gifts come from?
5. What is the body made up of? (see vs 14)
6. Who arranges the parts in the body?
7. Which parts are indispensable?
8. How do we treat the parts that we think are less honorable?
9. What should the parts have for each other?
10. What happens when a part suffers? is honored?
11. What has God appointed in the Church?
12. What should we eagerly desire?

BONUS:

1. Are spiritual gifts available today? Explain.
2. How has Satan used "gifts" to divide the Church?
3. What are the "greater gifts"?

Study Guide

I Corinthians 13:

1. What is one who speaks in tongues but doesn't have love?
2. What is the one with prophecy, faith and knowledge, but no love?
3. What do the generous gain, if they don't have love?
4. What is love?
5. What is love not?
6. What never fails?
7. What will happen to prophecies, tongues and knowledge?
8. What will happen when perfection comes?
9. What happened when Paul became a man?
10. What do we see now?
11. What will we see then?
12. What 3 remain, and which is greatest?

BONUS

1. Why would other "gifts" be worthless without love?
2. What is "perfection" that is to come? Has it come?
3. Why would love be greater than faith or hope?

STUDY GUIDE

I Corinthians 14:

1. What were they to follow?
2. Who does the tongue speaker and who does the prophet, edify?
3. What type of words do you need to use, if you will understand yourself?
4. What type of gifts were they to try and excel in?
5. What should the one speaking in a tongue, pray for?
6. What would Paul rather speak in the Church, than 10,000 words in tongues?
7. Who are tongues a sign for?
8. What will the one who hears prophesying be convinced of?
9. What will he exclaim?
10. What conditions are given in verse 27 for one speaking in tongues?
11. What instructions are given to those who would prophesy?
12. How should everything be done?

BONUS:

1. Do you think tongues are from God, today? Explain.
2. Are there prophets today? Explain.
3. What does it mean: "women should remain silent in the Church"?

COMMENTARY

STUDY GUIDE

I Corinthians 15

1. What would save the Corinthians?
2. What did Paul preach about Christ?
3. Who were witnesses of Christ's resurrection?
4. If Christ had not been raised, what would be useless?
5. What are we still in, if Christ was not raised?
6. Why does the resurrection come from a man?
7. What will be put under Christ's feet?
8. What corrupts good character?
9. What 2 types of bodies are there? (see vs 40)
10. In verses 42-44, what bodies are mentioned and how will they be raised?
11. Whose likeness shall we bear?
12. When will we be changed?

BONUS:

1. What does the list of eyewitnesses mean to you?
2. Why did Jesus have to be raised the 3rd day?
3. What does eternal life mean to you?

STUDY GUIDE

I CORINTHIANS 16:

1. What were they to do on the first day of the week?
2. What would Paul do when he arrived?
3. Where was Paul going first, before going to Corinth?
4. What did Paul hope to do, if the Lord permitted?
5. Why was Paul staying at Ephesus?
6. What were they to do if Timothy arrived?
7. What instructions did Paul give in verses 13 and 14?
8. Who were the Corinthians to submit to?
9. What had Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus done?
10. Where did one Church meet?
11. How were they to greet one another?
12. What does Paul say about those who don't love the Lord?

BONUS:

1. How should offerings be used today?
2. What can we learn from Paul closing and talking about different people?
3. What is a "holy" kiss?