

Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be numbered, or made bold for emphasis.

I Corinthians 11: Be Ye Followers of Me

The chapter opens with a directive, *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”* (Verse 1) Some saints may be hesitant to the idea of following the Apostle Paul. Instead, their desire and tradition may be to pursue Jesus in His earthly ministry, like *“What would Jesus do?”* However, historically much has changed since Jesus walked the earth:

1. Israel crucified their Messiah (Acts 2:36).
2. Jesus was resurrected.
3. God set Israel aside for a time, along with their promises (Rom. 11:25).
4. Paul was raised as an Apostle teaching ‘a Mystery message’ to all nations (Gentiles), creating the Body of Christ. *“That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.”* (Rom. 15:16) **To Do:** Read these verses in context to gain further insight.



Believers today are to recognize their God-appointed Apostle. *“For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.”* (Rom.11:13) We are to follow Paul and this new, hidden wisdom that Christ revealed unto him.

This time of Gentile grace was a mystery, but is now revealed in Romans thru Philemon. These epistles are ‘to’ the Body of Christ: *“For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery: (as I wrote afore in few words.)”* (Eph. 3:1-3) **Note:** If you focus mostly on Jesus’ earthly ministry it will hinder your appreciation of the mystery given to Paul. The tendency will be to hold onto tradition.

All the Bible is for our learning (Rom. 15:4), but not all doctrine is written ‘to us.’ (i.e. Most saints know we do not sacrifice animals, keep Israel’s holy days or dietary rules (Lev. 1-11), nor are we to sell all we have and lay it at our Church leader’s feet as in Acts 4:32-37. Why? These were specific instructions ‘to’ the remnant of Israel.) Romans 9-11 teaches us that God has turned His focus to the Body of Christ. Romans 6-7 and Galatians instruct us that we’re free from being under the law program: *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”* (Gal. 5:1) As we rightly divide the Word (II Tim. 2:15), we learn that following Paul is following the ‘risen Christ.’

What Does Following Paul Look Like?

Once we trust Christ’s shed blood as payment for all our sin, it helps to know there is a clear ‘process to mature’ spiritually. Are you following it?

It’s not a haphazard method. Growth can occur as we obtain bits and pieces of Scripture here and there, but it’s inefficient; not ideal to mature. There’s an effective way: *“Holdfast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”* (II Tim 1:13)

Scripture is to be our authority. The specific form of doctrine (Rom. 6:17) God designed for the Body of Christ is found in Paul’s letters. It is laid out from milk teaching, Romans through Galatians, to advancing meat doctrine, Ephesians through Philemon.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Tim. 2:15) Read and study the whole Bible in light of what Paul, who follows Christ, teaches. To attain this progressive teaching, slowly study Romans through Philemon. Mature first in your new identity to become established. This teaching is found in the book of Romans:

Romans 1-5: How to be justified/secure.

Romans 6-8: Your close identity with Christ’s death, burial, & resurrection and how to access God’s power to live godly.

Romans 9-11: God’s Timeline (Israel is set aside, then the mystery: the fullness of the Gentiles, ending with the Rapture, and finally the resumption of Israel’s promises.)

Romans 12-16: You can humbly learn how to be a sacrifice, knowing you’re a member of one of another in the Body.

To Do: Periodically evaluate whether you’re growing using God’s wise and organized method.



Search it out!

Living As Who You Are In Christ

I Corinthians 11: Laboring God's Way

Examine verses!



Paul is your Apostle, but also a pattern to follow: in order to grow in understanding and live under grace in your life (I Tim. 1:16). Christ instructed Paul and then, enabled him to write it down for you to learn. (I Tim. 1:11-16)

Consider the particulars in this package of doctrine (Romans thru Philemon) by reading and studying it, led by the Spirit. As a believer matures through this teaching, it will change his thinking and how he functionally lives unto God. Study I Corinthians 11 for yourself:

1. Observe a subject change: What are the two main topics Paul addresses in I Corinthians 11? How does knowing this help you in your study of this chapter?

2. Note when there is a continued topic: Though Chapter 11 begins by praising the Corinthians, the second topic unveils their self-focused attitude. He says, "...I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but the worse." (Verse 17) As addressed in previous chapters, they are not exhibiting love and care for the saints in the local Body. (Verses 20-22)

3. Take note when Paul corrects: What was the specific guidelines given to the Corinthians to deal with their self-centered attitude in coming together for the Lord's table? How can this be helpful for you today?

4. Notice when there is a warning: In Verses 27-34, Paul provides cautionary advice. What is it? How will taking heed to Paul's counsel help them spiritually?

5. Personal Questions: If you read and study the chapter several times and still have questions, put them 'to the side' for consideration at a later time. It may be helpful to jot the questions down or make a note in your Bible to remind you to review it later.

6. Compare similar passages: The Lord's table is a memorial of what the Lord started with His disciples the night He was betrayed. Look at these passages to gain a full understanding. (Matt. 26, Mark 14, Luke 22)

7. Highlight/circle difficult terms or phrases: Read through the chapter and make a note of difficult words, then look them up in a good dictionary. This can help in your understanding of the whole chapter.

***Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on using many new study insights.**



God Has Set a Structure of Authority

I Corinthians 11 opens by clarifying God's authority for today. First, saints are instructed to follow Paul as their Apostle. Then, he reviews the general hierarchy: "*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of every woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.*" Paul already addressed the issue of authority in Romans 13, teaching that what God sets in place is our guide to live by. "*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*" (Romans 13:1) Saints are to be in subjection to this power, knowing God has designed it perfectly for us. **To Do:** Read Romans 13 for further insight for applying in life.

A woman is to be under the authority of a man. God used nature itself to furnish a witness, that is, her hair. "*Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.*" (I Corinthians 11:14-15) This covering of authority is manifest to the world, but also unto angels. (Verse 10)

While God relays a tiered structure in this chapter, He also maintains equality between a man and woman. He planned things in love and for our good. In Genesis we see that God took a rib from Adam's side to make woman, not from above, nor below. She is to be her husband's "...help meet for him." (Gen.2:18-24) Yet every man is born by coming from the body of a woman. "*For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.*" (I Cor. 11:12) This can keep the man humble, to avoid high-mindedness. As we yield to God's infinite wisdom, we can learn to trust His love. A father, then her husband is to be a woman's umbrella of protection. God's overall structure of authority is the perfect 'cover' we need to live peaceably and safely in this evil world.



The ordinance in I Corinthians 11 is that a woman is to function under the authority of the man. This is similar to a man who is to operate in faith under Christ. Honoring the hierarchy fulfills the instruction in the chapter.

However, some churches view this ordinance (order/decreed) to mean they must wear a physical covering, such as a hat. Verse 15 provides help to understand this issue: *"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."*

The head covering is a woman's own hair. It's a God-given, natural cover provided to a woman, manifesting she is under authority. Therefore, women have no need to use a bonnet or scarf of any kind to show respect & honor to their father or husband.

A related issue is that if a man wears long hair, it is contrary to God's instruction, decreed in the hierarchy. *"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him...But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."* (I Cor. 11:14,16) We have the great opportunity to deal in grace with sisters who do wear a physical covering and men who choose to grow long hair.

To Do: Study this topic for yourself to come to your own conclusions. Then, live accordingly to your convictions.

The Lord's Table: Is It For Today?

(I Corinthians 11:17-34)

The thrust of this topic is teaching the Corinthians, as well as saints today, that whatever one does ought to be done with love, including the Lord's table. Yet, Paul also provides clarity in 'how' to come together. It is an opportunity to remember the gift of new life the Lord Jesus provided for us: He died on the cross, offered His body, and shed His blood. As often as we celebrate this event, we put on display His love sacrifice. The Lord's Table is a memorial given to the Body of Christ to be kept. However, consider a few issues to prove this by the Word for yourselves:

1) Examine how Paul used a similar phrase twice in this chapter to direct believers. In I Corinthians 11:2 Paul relays, *"...keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."* And, then in Verse 23-24: *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you..."* **To Do:** Paul also used similar phrases in Romans 6:17 and I Corinthians 15:3. Review all four of these passages in their context. Paul encourages saints to obey his instructions in each, 'as he delivered' them.

2) I Corinthians 11:24 and 25 instruct saints to do this dedication *"...in remembrance of me."* And, in Verse 26, Paul further directs: *"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."* While it does not state how often saints are to partake in this charge, he does indicate it will be a physical reminder of the Lord's death 'until He returns.' Clearly, this memorial is in effect until Christ returns.

3) Paul provides correction to the Corinthian's for their fleshly behavior when coming together: *"For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken."* (Verse 21) Yet also note a subtle issue. Paul does not go on to rebuke, replace, or indicate that the Lord's table will pass away or be replaced, as he does in the next chapter, regarding spiritual gifts. *"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."* (I Corinthians 12:31)

4) Questions often arise, regarding Verses 27-29, specifically eating and drinking 'unworthily' and *"...eateth and drinketh damnation to himself..."* When someone is not 'fully persuaded' in partaking of the Lord's table, and does not do it in faith, it is considered sin (Romans 14:5,23). Of course, this section can't be referring to eternal damnation since saints already have eternal life. Rather, it's referring to condemnation of a saint who walks after the flesh (Romans 8:1). The Corinthians didn't have a godly attitude, so they could expect sowing and reaping for their choices (Romans 6:21-23), and to suffer loss in the believer's judgment. *"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."* (I Corinthians 3:15)

5) Finally, another issue that can cause questions is: *"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."* (I Cor. 11:30) Consider that this is speaking about being spiritually weak and sickly. Further, the sleeping issue relates to one who is spiritually dead and now ineffectual. (Rom. 13:11) Being functionally dead or asleep is also a result of choices.

To Do: Be open to let the Word spark further meditation and study. Seek and search it out and become fully persuaded!

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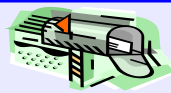
“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)

Freedom With Responsibility

Each person develops a belief system within their mind to make sense of the world, God, and situations. Many things influence our beliefs. Often without consciously knowing, decisions are based on these values, whether they are accurate or not. Faith functions the same. Convictions adjust as we change, learn, or have experiences. These alter our perceptions. Will yours be based on Scripture alone, or on a combination of things, like feelings, desires, or traditions? God gives us free will to decide.

In I Thessalonians 2:13, saints chose to put their faith in sound doctrine: *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”*

How can we use our freedom in grace, while taking Paul’s admonition in Colossians 4:12 seriously? *“...that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”* Be responsible to read and study His Word, thinking and praying on it. This develops conviction for application. When an idea or belief disagrees with sound doctrine, study and think about the issue and then eject any faulty thinking. Determine to be led by the Spirit, and then live what you believe, even if there is a cost, causes fear, or is uncomfortable. **To God be all the glory!**



‘On A Personal Side’

We welcome feedback & questions and would like to hear from you!

From Our Readers

“I would like to be put on the list to receive the newsletter emails. Also, I would like a copy of the two books: ‘What to Appreciate As We Approach God’s Word’ and ‘How the Bible is Practical and Able to Mature Believers.’ (Wisconsin)

“Depending on where we are next year, I am hoping I can attend (the Women’s Florida Retreat) in 2019. Thank you for your ministry Debbie!” (Texas)

“I am wanting so much to have a Bible study, so how would we work out the time and day?” (Florida)

“I just started reading and studying your many resources on your website. Thank you for making it available on the internet.” (Netherlands)

“I am planning to organize the first ever Rightly Dividing Grace Conference here in Nigeria in November. I intend to use your books for the meeting. Keep me in prayers about the conference. Once again, my heartfelt thanks to you and Brian.” (Nigeria)

Ministry Notices and Happenings

Attention Facebook Friends! Sharon McEntee has set up a wonderful resource: **Mid-Acts Pauline Bible Conferences and Functions**. It provides a listing of regular Bible study groups and gatherings across the USA and some outside the country. If you don’t have a Church or are traveling, check out this resource on Facebook. Make connections for fellowship with like-minded saints. We appreciate Sister Sharon!

Thank our Heroes in the Military! You could directly call, send letters, or thank them personally whenever you see them. Or, partner with a group to show appreciation for our soldiers, their families, and veterans. i.e. BlueStarFam.org, OperationGratitude.com, or WoundedWarriorProject.org. (While we have not fully investigated all these programs, we encourage you to do so before giving financial support.) The military keeps us safe and they deserve our support!

***Christian Couples Night is the last Saturday of the month in Chesterfield, VA. For details: (804) 519-1210**

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