

Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

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

Security in Authority?

Theme: Application of I Corinthians 11

How do you view authority; is it a good thing? For many it can be seen as a negative. Yet recall what Scripture says about the authority God set in place:

-Parents: The parental role was given to protect and teach the young. *"Children obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. (Col. 3:20)*

-Husband: The man was placed over a woman to be her covering and protection: *"...and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." (Genesis 3:16)*

-Government: This power is to make life safer: *"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same." (Rom. 13:3)*

-Local Church: Leaders labor to guide & edify the saints: *"And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." (I Thess. 5:13)*

God's way always has order and this functions in the Body of Christ: *"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." (I Cor. 11:3)* With this, God has placed us under a system of grace, where He does not condemn or hover over us.

If we're honest, most of us wanted to step away from our parents to become independent and free. More often than not, grown-ups desire the same thing with God. We don't like to be told what to do and how to do it, being pressured to adhere to rules. Yet many Churches today function this way, under the law. This is contrary to God's way. Paul was used of God to write epistles as grace instructions, *Romans-Philemon*. These are to function as a guide to the Church, the Body of Christ. In grace, we are given free-will to choose. This is freedom with spiritual direction.

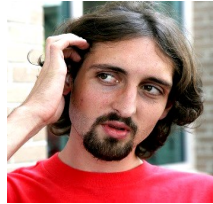
An Example: In *I Cor. 11:1*, Paul's teachings give instruction to clarify the hierarchy of power to the members of the Body of Christ. (*I Cor. 11:3*) This enables us to confidently know what God desires and is beneficial for us. Our choice is to yield to His ordained powers. (*Rom.13:1*) When we function God's way in grace, there is safety and protection, with wisdom and peace. The Spirit leads us through the Word (*Rom. 8:14*) to help us as we grow and live on this earth. Love is always God's motive.

Humble or Contentious?

I Corinthians 11 teaches about authority and respect. The specific issue in this chapter addresses a man wearing a covering, that is, long hair: *"Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head...For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God..." (vs. 4,7)*

Once the instruction is understood, grace teaches that we are to allow the man to make his own choices. It is between him and God; we are not appointed to be his judge. *"But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." (vs. 16)*

-How to help someone who is contrary: In love: **1)** Encourage him to grow by regularly reading and meditating on



God's Word. **2)** Teach that when his flesh doesn't like what it says, he can yield to God anyway. Sin doesn't have to reign, obeying the lusts of the flesh. (*Romans 6:12-13*)

3) Remind him it's a choice to love God and exalt others more than oneself. Earlier, in *I Corinthians 8:13*, Paul gives us an example of what this looks like: *"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."* Learning selfless love is a process that can take time to acquire.

-How can this chapter help the Church graciously respond to contrary saints? Grace motivates godly love to function in the local assembly. While the instruction seems clear for a man not to cover his head, as it dishonors God, a harsh response (legalism) can discourage, provoke, and cause injury. Instead, members of the Church can learn to patiently endure, loving him where he is in his journey. Situations such as these enable believers to think about and then apply the doctrine of grace in the details of their lives.



Coming Together for the Better

Many saints have the great privilege of having a local assembly. If you do, an interesting question is, "Do you come together for the better or the worse?" Relationships within the Church are affected by the spiritual maturity of its members: "*Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.*" (1 Cor. 11:17-18) Paul goes on to relay there were heresies and a disregard for other believers in the Corinth Church. They were carnal babes, not preferring their brothers in Christ.

Regular self-examination is always wise. It is not to put ourselves under the law, but to become self-aware, grow spiritually, and realize areas that we may need to adjust. "*Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*" (Rom. 14:19) Each believer is instructed to put others first in love, which would consider their needs above their own.

1 Corinthians 13:2 relays that when we do not have charity, there is no profit: "*And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*" Charity relates to actions of selfless love, reflecting a godly heart attitude. Love begins in the mind as we gain Christ-like thinking. It is a renewed mind. (Philippians 2:5-8) Do we exalt ourselves and put others down by thinking or speaking unkindly? Or, do we go out of the way to include and love the weak, needy, or challenged. Often, what we do when we come together reflects our true heart and where we are in spiritual maturity. No one has arrived; we're all under construction. We can purpose to practice charity in the assembly.



Should We Celebrate the Lord's Table?

There are many views about celebrating the Lord's table. (1 Corinthians 11) Do your own study to gain conviction, keeping the Scripture as your authority. Consider these three issues:

1) Should we even celebrate "ordinances" today? Many conclude that traditions (custom to live by the doctrine) and ordinances (authoritative decree/rule) are not for the Body of Christ, because we are not under the Law, but under grace. While it is true that we are under grace, at times Paul used these terms to apply to us in this present Church age: *II Thessalonians 2:15: "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle"* and *I Corinthians 11:2: "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."* **To Do:** Use a dictionary and/or concordance to do a personal study on "tradition(s)" and "ordinance(s)" taught to the Body of Christ, that is, instructions written to us by our Apostle Paul.

2) Paul "delivered" some things: Paul made known many things to the Church by what the Lord revealed to him in visions and revelations. (II Cor. 12:1) For example, in *Romans 6:17*, he delivered the "form of doctrine," that is, the gospel of Christ: "*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*" In *I Corinthians 11:23* the Lord used Paul to teach us to keep the ordinance of the Lord's Table: "*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you. That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread...*" In grace, saints can partake in this ordinance as often as they desire; it's a choice. (vs. 26) **To Do:** Examine the term "delivered." Define it and look at the times it was used to verify what Paul taught us.

3) Remembering the Lord's death: There is good reason to celebrate this instruction, that is, to keep in our memory what happened at the cross: His death, burial, and resurrection. Verse 24 and 25 both say to do it "...in remembrance of me." Verse 26 reads: "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*" It is a remembrance, but also a showing of Christ's cross work by knowing that faith in His shed blood saves us, providing resurrection life! Believers, unbelievers, & angels (Eph. 3:10) are watching Christ being manifest in us. Observing the Lord's Table is a way to show His death, what it accomplished, and His return. It's not required, but a joy opportunity.

What's New for Pages 3-4

Beginning this month, articles on these last two pages will address different topics and no longer be related to the theme of the first two pages. In this way, a variety of subjects can be addressed each month in order to edify.

Additionally, we will add a question and answer section. Please feel free to forward questions or feedback to (804) 519-1210 or our email at lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com.

From Filthy Rags to God's Own Righteousness

Let us examine what occurred to Adam in the Garden. Immediately upon eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he fell from his sinless status. When created, Adam was clothed in righteousness. However, when he sinned he lost this covering and became naked: *"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."* (Gen. 3:7) **This will never happen to us because God had a perfect plan!**

Mankind inherits Adam's likeness: *"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth."* (Gen. 5:3) The best humans can attain to is self-righteousness, which falls short: *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."* (Is. 64:6)

Thanks be to God for providing a perfect blood sacrifice, the Jesus Christ, who paid for all our sin: *"...he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin... He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied..."* (Is. 53:10,11) When we trusted Christ, God imputed His own righteousness to our account. We can never lose it: *"Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works."* (Rom. 4:6) **While we are positionally righteous, at the resurrection our bodies will be eternally clothed in His righteousness! How glorious, indeed!**



Question I: What would you do if you observed a person being toxic toward another? Should you warn the aggressor and/or help the victim, or mind your own business?

One view: As a Bible teacher and life coach, I've made my share of mistakes jumping into situations, being too quick to add unsolicited insights. The rule of thumb seems to be doing all things in godly love: *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"* (Eph. 4:15) Two questions to ask before giving advice: "Is my motive to edify in love for their good, not to make 'me' feel or look good, or because I feel pressured?" and "Do I believe they will be receptive to my insight?"

Meditation, prayer, and consulting someone wise can help. Love and impulsiveness compel us to act and sometimes jump in when it can make things worse, especially when we don't have all the facts. Asking permission to speak into someone's life is always a good approach. (Start slow; if they respond, offer a bit more, asking if it is helpful.)

When someone is in danger, after considering these things, be proactive; love covers a "multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8) Know that it is very hard for a victim to see clearly and be confident to walk away from abuse. Decisions and situations are individual and can be complex. A saint, on God's behalf, can reach out in love to show care, offering help. This love can be life changing. *"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."* (Eph. 5:2) So the answer would be to do all things in love after considering Scripture and being self-aware of your motives.

Question II: What can we do in a time where "...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse..."? (II Tim. 3:13)

Let us look at the context of *II Timothy 3:13*: *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* (vs. 12) (While that may not be a pleasant thought, we can recall the great privilege to serve our Father, who has freely given us all things in His great love for us.) We can confidently walk through challenges and focus above: *"But continue in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them."* (vs.14)

God's Word can give us rest and peace in the midst of turmoil by casting down thoughts that focus on the flesh/problems/circumstances, leading to doubt and anxiety. Then, bring *"...into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."* (II Cor. 10:5) Exalting Truth enables us to 'close windows' on thoughts that please Satan and discourage us. A renewed mind pushes out this thinking to focus above.

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To:

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

The Logic of Right Division by Jeanette Scallan

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (1Timothy 2:3-4)

Reaching dedicated denominationalists can be difficult. Constant exposure to half-truths can blind them to grace and make it hard to come unto the knowledge of the truth. If those you share the gospel with can't see that the books of the Apostle Paul preach a different gospel than the rest of the Bible, try suggesting this:

Read the entire Bible from cover to cover, but skip the parts from *Acts 9* (which introduces the conversion of Paul) all the way to the end of the book of Philemon. When you finish *Acts 8*, skip to *Hebrews 1* and keep reading.

After you have read the whole Bible without Paul's message, and are feeling condemned for your sin and terrified of judgment, go back and start reading *Acts 9* to the end of *Acts*. Then read *Romans-Philemon*. You will see there IS a difference, and if you allow yourself to believe what you are reading with your own eyes, and not what you have been told by some preachers, you will be so glad and thankful.

The gospel of grace (salvation by grace through faith, not of works) is only found in the ministry and teaching of the Apostle Paul, because it was only committed to him by the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. The FREE gift of grace and peace, with no works required, that God is offering to the world right now in this present dispensation, is a limited time offer. Things will change on this earth after Christ comes to Rapture (catch away) the Body of Christ believers. You don't want to be here for that.

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