the book of 1st Corinthians

Thursday Morning Bible Class

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:26

1

Consideration for Others – 10:23-11:1

- Paul wraps up the section on eating idol-meat with a few more guidelines.
- 23 – Going back to the general rule in Ch. 8, all things are lawful, but not everything is helpful for a brother or sister in Christ.
- 24 – Thus one's basic goal is to serve your neighbor's good. This is the law of love.

2

Consideration for Others – 10:23-11:1

- 25 – Based on the truth that idols don't really exist, go ahead and eat meat from the market. Just don't ask a lot of questions.
- 26 – Ps. 24:1 – "The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it." Everything created by God is good and should be received with thanksgiving.

3

Consideration for Others – 10:23-11:1

- 27 – Thus the Christian may accept an invitation to a pagan home and eat without questions.
- 28 – But if someone says the food has been offered in sacrifice to an idol, then refrain from eating.
- 29 – Paul's concern is not for one's own conscience but for your neighbor.

4

Consideration for Others – 10:23-11:1

- 30 – Paul can't be accused of doing wrong over something that he recognizes as coming from God.
- 31 – The overarching principle: Do everything to the glory of God.
- 32 – Then you will not give offense to others.
- 33 – Imitate him because he imitates Christ.
- 11:1 – Love Christ by loving others.

5

Head Coverings – 11:2-6

- 2 – The following is all about public worship. Paul's concern? What is the message we are giving to the community?
- The veil in eastern countries was a symbol of modesty and subjection.
- Paul begins by commending them that they keep the traditions he gave them.

6

Head Coverings – 11:2-6

- 3 – The doctrinal basis for the instruction that follows: God – Christ – Man – Woman. But this is a relationship of dependence and submission out of love, yielding to divinely appointed guardianship. Just as the church flourishes with Christ to lead and care for them, so women flourish with a man to care for them.

7

Head Coverings – 11:2-6

- The concept is one of authority. But not harsh subjugation of the woman to her husband. Rather, this is the responsibility for loving, self-sacrificing service. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. (Eph. 5:2)

8

Head Coverings – 11:2-6

- 4 – Paul's concern is for the public demonstration of loving authority. The man, when praying or speaking in church should have his head uncovered. That honors Christ.
- 5 – The woman should pray or prophesy with her head covered. To do so was a misuse of liberty. It brings shame on her and her husband.

9

Orders of Creation – 11:7-16

- 7 – Why is this so important? Because of creation. Man was created in the image of God. He should not be disrespectful of God by not uncovering his head. The woman brings glory to God by having her head covered.
- Even today, to take off one's hat is a sign of respect.

10

Orders of Creation – 11:7-16

- 8-9 - Two reasons why the woman is man's glory:
  - 1) She was taken from Adam's rib, therefore man is her source.
  - 2) She was created for the purpose of providing Adam with a helper. She is to be helpful, supportive and complimentary.

11

Orders of Creation – 11:7-16

- 10 – The veiled head was a symbol of the proper order of things, a sign that the woman was under a man's protection.
- "On account of the angels" – In worship, angels are present to worship just as we are.
- 11-12 – Women are not inferior creatures. There is a profound interdependence in the male-female relationship. Neither can exist without the other.

12

Orders of Creation – 11:7-16

- 13 – Paul now appeals to logic. "Judge for yourselves" – Public leading in prayere is not proper if her head is uncovered.
- 14-15 – This was the common acceptance at that time: long hair for a man is a shame, but for a woman it is a mark of beauty.
- 16 – This is something all the churches agree on.

13

The Lord's Supper – 11:17-22

- Here is what is going on in 1st century Corinth:
  - 1) The Lord's Supper was celebrated in homes.
  - 2) It was held daily as part of a larger meal.
  - 3) The meal was like a pot-luck meal.
- 17 – Here Paul cannot commend them. Their coming together did not edify but tear down.

14

The Lord's Supper – 11:17-22

- 18 – They separated into small cliques.
- 19 – The cliques were obvious.
- 20 -21 – The idea was for all to share what they had brought. The Lord's Supper was a sign of their fellowship with Christ. But each clique devoured what they brought, leaving the poor with nothing.

15

The Lord's Supper – 11:17-22

- 22 – Eat their own food in your own homes, not in the public assembly. It despised the whole idea of the church as the body of Christ.
- In so doing they humiliate the poor and leave them with nothing. He cannot commend such conduct.

16

Words of Institution – 11:23-26

- 23 – Paul repeats the words of institution to remind them of why they celebrate such a meal in the first place.
- 24 – "In remembrance of me" – To remember is to participate as if we are around the table with Jesus himself.

17

Words of Institution – 11:23-26

- 24 – Holy Communion is not a festival commemorating a dead man; it is a meal fellowship with Him who lives and who is actually present among his followers through bread and wine.
- 26 – To participate gives testimony to the sacrificial death of Christ for all.

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