

Men and Women, Lord's Supper

Lesson 9

I Corinthians 11:1 - 34

Introduction

In this chapter, Paul delivers some of his most severe criticism of the practices of the Corinthians. They were not holding fast certain of the traditions given to them by Paul (vs.2). The men and women were failing to recognize their roles and duties while praying and prophesying (vs. 4,5). Even worse was the behavior of many as they came together for the Lord's Supper; some were making a common meal of it.

Paul addresses these problems by emphasizing spiritual facts: the heads of men, women and Christ to explain the proper roles of men and women; and the origin of the Lord's Supper to explain its proper observance.

Proper Behavior of Men and Women - 11:1-16

1. Note that many positions are held regarding this section but most can be summarized in the following four groups:
 - A. The covering of women was related to the exercise of spiritual gifts
 - B. The wearing of a covering was merely a custom of the time.
 - C. The covering is a binding requirement today.
 - D. The covering is the hair.
2. To what does Paul compare a woman praying or prophesying without a covering?
3. Why was a man's head not to be covered?
4. Use vs. 11 and 12 and Galatians 3:28 to explain how men and women are equal yet have different roles.
5. Explain what type of hair men and women are to have. What is long hair to each?
6. What custom were they not to have?

Lord's Supper - 11:17-34

1. What had Paul heard existed among them?
2. What would factions demonstrate?
3. Describe their behavior when they gathered to eat the Lord's Supper.
4. Read Luke 22:14-23. Where had Paul obtained his knowledge regarding this Supper?
5. Name at least two things which should be accomplished in the partaking of the supper.
6. What results from improper partaking?
7. Where were their meals to be eaten?