



“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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Lesson 21: God Ordained Authority

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Read Genesis 1:26-29, 2:5-7,18-25. What was “not good”? What does God do about this? What things do we notice about the creation of man verses the creation of woman? From where did the man receive instructions? From where did the woman receive instructions? Why does this matter?

Read Ephesians 5:25-33. Who gets the most “instruction” in this, wives or husbands? In what way are wives to interact with their husbands? What might that look like in every day life? In what way are husbands to interact with their wives? Who are husbands called to imitate? What does this mean, practically, in everyday life? If husbands and wives are taking these instructions seriously, is there any justification for abuse, by either spouse? Why or why not?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. Who is given the most “instruction” here, wives or husbands? What should not be the focus of a godly wife? What *should* be the focus of a godly wife? What is very precious in God’s sight? Why? How should husbands interact with their wives? What warning do we see here for husbands?

Read Proverbs 31:10-31. While many specific details are given here, what are the general characteristics that we see in these details, of a godly wife? List some “opposites” of those characteristics. Where might those traits be valued? (Example: the godly wife seeks to bless her husband; the opposite would be one who seeks her own good before her husband. Where would this “opposite” woman be praised today?) Does this woman of Proverbs 31 sound “oppressed” or “kept down”? Does fear of abuse motivate this woman? What, in verse 30, do we see is her motivation? Would you want to be invited in to learn from this woman? Why or why not?

Read Leviticus 10:1-2 and Deuteronomy 12:1-7, 29-32. What principles is God laying out here? Who decides what is worship to God? Why do we need to keep that in mind?

Read John 4:19-26. What is Jesus discussing with this Samaritan woman? What hope does He offer her? Why is this a big deal? What does He reveal to her?

Ladies, God, alone, declares what IS worship of Him, and what is not. When we try to step outside of those bounds and be creative, we may find ourselves facing what Nadab and Abihu faced. Paul has laid out, clearly, the authority that we should submit to in worship, and in our lives.

Ladies, how do you respond when you find Scripture that tells you that your role, as a woman, is different from that of a man? Do you push back? Do you try to find ways around that?

Today, as you spend time with God, ask Him to help you to remember that He created you and He knew what He was doing when He created you. Ask Him to help you to want to honor Him, in all that you do, and to want to submit appropriately, not as a doormat, but also not as one being held down by force. Ask Him to help you to see the value in who He created you to be, instead of being jealous for the role that is given to others. Thank Him for His provision and acknowledge His wisdom and authority over you in creating you, as a woman. Ask Him to help you to remember that “different” doesn’t mean “less value” and to ask Him to help you to be content and thrive right where He has you.