



“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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Lesson 27: He is Not A God of Confusion

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Okay, looking back over the lessons from the past several days, and the Scripture we’ve looked at in these notes, we see that Paul is summing up here. All of what he has taught amounts to this: our worship should reflect who God is, and should point to Him, not to ourselves. All worship should be done orderly, not in a frenzied or distracted manner, but with our minds focused on Him and on Who He is. As that is the case, there ARE boundaries which we should GLADLY stay within in our worship.

Read Genesis 1 today. How did God create...everything? What is striking about how He created compared to how science claims a “big bang” created it all? Look at the details, but also the intent, the process, the order. This, ladies, is how God STARTED our universe.

Read Colossians 1:15-18. What “role” has Jesus had in creation? What role does He have, currently? What characteristic(s) of His does this continue to affirm?

Ladies, why is it so important to understand that God truly is a God of order? What does this help us to understand about His nature? If He was not a God of order, in what ways would God be different? Why does this matter?

Knowing this, what do we need to be careful of when we approach Him in worship? Without becoming legalistic, what motives, thoughts, and actions should we be aware of? What should be our guiding principle in worship as in life? How could this have helped prevent some of the problems the Corinthians were having in worship and life?

Ladies, we’ve dug in deeply into the specific issues that were plaguing the church in Corinth, and it’s very easy to assume that, after seeing all of these issues, that our churches have no problems, but in doing that, we are making the wrong comparison. Our comparison should always be to the only true standard: that of Christ. Knowing that, how does your attitude toward the body of Christ compare to that of Christ’s? Make no mistake: Jesus wasn’t blind to the sins of the body, but He still died for the sake of His bride. How does your

attitude toward the church (your local body in particular) reflect the love that Christ had for the church? How does your attitude reflect a lack of love? Are there people or practices that are not necessarily wrong, but are not your preference, that have caused you to have an attitude that is not befitting a Christ follower? Are you hyper-critical of your church? Are you, perhaps, covering your eyes and refusing to see true sin that needs to be dealt with in your church? There is a balance here, ladies, and it's easy to fall into one ditch or the other and completely miss the balance. Still, when it comes to the worship of our God, isn't it worth wrestling with these issues to be careful to honor Him in all that we do?

If there is something that you have harbored (resentment or bitterness) towards someone in your church over a non-salvation issue, it is time to confess that to God and repent. If there is an issue of sin that you have been overlooking in your, between yourself and another believer or perhaps you are aware of a sin that issue that is going on inside the church and you have not spoken up, it's time to speak up.

Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and ask Him to help you to wade through the hard issues. Ask Him to help you to honor Him in everything that you do, and ask Him to help you to be bold when necessary and to be silent when appropriate. The pride of the Corinthian believers led to chaos that not only did not bring honor to God, but also distracted from Who He really is and what it really is to worship Him.

Examine your own worship today, and the practices that are occurring in your church. Be bold where necessary, but be bold in a way that demonstrates your submission to the God given authority over you. Be gracious but firm; be loving but stand for God's truth. Learn from the example we have been given, and keep your focus on honoring God, not on the approval or interest of men.