

Joyful Life Bible Studies

M

I Corinthians 11,12

Lesson 18

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a scripture or phrase from I Corinthians 10 that has prodded you to a more fervent walk with the Lord.
 - a. Explain why.

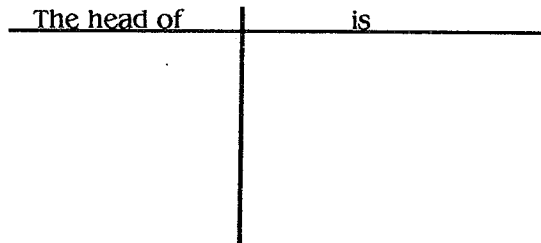
2. This week you will be introduced to problems in the public worship services in the Corinthian church. Mark the paragraph divisions as follows. Briefly state in your own words the contents dealt with in each paragraph. Use the reference given in parentheses to help you if you desire.
 - a. I Corinthians 11:2-16 (11:5)
 - b. I Corinthians 11:17-22 (11:20,21)
 - c. I Corinthians 11:23-26 (11:23a)
 - d. I Corinthians 11:27-32 (11:27)
 - e. I Corinthians 11:33,34 (11:33a)

3. Most Bible scholars agree that I Corinthians 11:1 should be attached to the last verse of I Corinthians 10. Contemplate Paul's instruction in I Corinthians 11:1 in light of I Corinthians 10:33. What example of Paul's from I Corinthians 10:33 are we urged to follow?
 - a. Consider (*to think of especially with regard to taking some action*) a specific way you can put I Corinthians 10:33 into action. Write it here.

4. What part of doing your lesson each week is most difficult for you?
 - a. Write a prayer asking the Lord to help you, encourage you, and enable you to overcome this.
 - b. Print the promise of Isaiah 41:13 here to bolster your faith.

SECOND DAY: Read I Corinthians 11

1. Imagine Christians today having problems in the church about whether a woman had the right to pray or prophesy in the church with her head uncovered (without a veil) or about the believers' gluttonous and drunken behavior at their Agape or Love Feast (fellowship meal) preceding the Lord's supper. It seems like we are looking at a situation which has no relevance for us today, *yet such passages have a very great interest because they shed a flood of light on the domestic affairs and problems of the early church. . . they have a very great importance, because Paul solves the problems by principles which are eternal.* Underline the phrases above that reveal why chapter 11 is of interest and importance to us today.
2. In I Corinthians 11:3 what did Paul want the Corinthian believers to *know*? Answer by filling in the following chart:



- a. Why do you feel God established this chain of authority?
 - b. Review God's creation of man and woman from Genesis 2:18,20c-24. Jot down the reason why God made the woman.
 - (1.) How does God's ideal differ from that espoused in our current culture?
 - (2.) Whose guidance do you choose to follow and why?
 - (3.) Selfishness and sin mar God's ideal for the family structure. What is your part in pursuing His ideal?
 3. In verses 4-6 Paul refers to social customs of the time. The veil represented subjection to authority. Following the theme of the preceding chapter, believers are urged to abide by the standards of their culture lest they offend. How might ignoring Paul's instruction hinder the witness of the Corinthian church in its community as well as continue to cause problems in the church?
- Challenge: How could the woman's praying in church with her head uncovered precipitate the controversy in the Corinthian's church?
4. Choose one of the paragraphs of I Corinthians 11 to study this week. Answer the following questions concerning the paragraph:
 - a. What does it say? (Use words from the paragraph as much as possible to answer this. Be brief. Don't embellish the content.)
 - b. What does it mean? (Here you explain what you think the ^{Paragraph}~~chapter~~ is about.)

- c. What does it mean to me? (Look for areas of application to your life. Asking yourself questions is a good way to discover these areas. For instance ask, *Am I contentious with others about things I might disagree on in the church? What should my focus be when I take communion?*)
5. Read through I Corinthians 11 again. Watch for the word *praise*. Why did Paul *praise* the Corinthian believers?
- a. Why did he not *praise* them?
6. Which of these paragraphs is relevant to the church today?

THIRD DAY: Read I Corinthians 12:1-7

1. Paul now turns his attention to another topic. I Corinthians 12-14 deal with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the proper use of those gifts. This twelfth chapter deals also with the importance of each member of the body (the church) and our interdependence on one another. Why is Paul writing to the Corinthian church about spiritual gifts? I Corinthians 12:1
2. The believers are now reminded in I Corinthians 12:2 that in their pagan past they had been controlled by and *carried* _____
- a. They were deluded and deceived. Refer to Ephesians 2:2 for a broader understanding of I Corinthians 12:2. Who controls the unbelievers' life?
- b. Now the believers in Christ were led by the Holy Spirit. In verse 3 Paul gives the believers a simple guideline so that they can distinguish between the operation of demon spirits and the Spirit of God. Write that guideline here.
- (1.) According to I John 4:1-3, what are we told to do? Why?

Challenge: Does I Corinthians 12:3 mean that no man can utter the words *Jesus is Lord*? Why or why not?

- c. A person controlled by the Holy Spirit cannot call Jesus *accursed*. Only a person under the influence of the Holy Spirit can properly proclaim what? Print your answer.

- (1.) Reflect on *Jesus is Lord* and write what this means in your life today.

*Jesus is Lord!
O'er sin the mighty conqueror.
From death He rose and all His foes shall own His Name.
Jesus is Lord!
God sends His Holy Spirit to show by works of power that
Jesus is Lord!*

D. Mansell

FOURTH DAY: Read I Corinthians 12:8-13

1. After assuring the believers that under the influence of the Holy Spirit Jesus could not be accursed, Paul now shows why. *The source of all spiritual gifts is the triune God.* By filling in the following chart, show three differences relating to spiritual gifts and their source.

Differences	Source
vs. 4a	vs. 4b
vs. 5a	vs. 5b
vs. 6a	vs. 6b

- a. Using a dictionary define each of the words in the left-hand column. Write your definition next to the word.
2. According to I Corinthians 12:7, what is the purpose of these gifts?
3. The Holy Spirit endues members of the body of Christ (the church) with gifts for service. List the nine gifts from I Corinthians 12:8-10.
- a. This list is not complete. Add to your list from Romans 12:(3-5)6-8.

Challenge: Define each of these gifts.

4. Compare this translation of I Corinthians 12:11 with the KJV. *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.* NIV The Amplified Version begins verse 11 this way: *All these. . .are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same Spirit. . .* Write in your own words what you learn about the *gifts* from I Corinthians 12:11.
5. What example does Paul use in I Corinthians 12:12 to describe the church?
- a. What do you learn from I Corinthians 12:12,13 and Galatians 3:26-28 about the *body*? See also Romans 12:4,5.

Advanced: Explain the meaning of *have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

6. Think about this: No matter how we as Christians differ in race or status in this life, we are united as one body. We are not alike. Remember, it is *unity* not *uniformity*. Write your response to this.

*Bind us together Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken,
Bind us together Lord, bind us together
Bind us together with Love
There is only One God. There is only One King.
There is only one body, that is why I sing.*

FIFTH DAY: Read I Corinthians 12:14-31

1. Paul uses the analogy of the human body (verses 14-17,21) to illustrate that each and every member of the body of Christ is interdependent on one another. Some believers err when they fail to recognize their importance to the body; others, when they think some parts of the body are unimportant. *Whether or not you recognize your own spiritual gift, as a believer, you are necessary and valuable to the church.* Support this statement by summarizing in your own words the truths presented in I Corinthians 12:14-24.

2. What comfort and contentment do you find in I Corinthians 12:18?

3. What attitudes might cause a Christian to view a more *feeble* (weaker or unseen) person as unnecessary and ignore someone they thought was *less honorable*?
 - a. Relate how these are corrected by I Corinthians 12:21-24.
 - (1.) What two reasons are given for our observing these instructions? I Corinthians 12:25,26
 - (2.) An easy way to understand I Corinthians 12:26a is to think of how your entire human body suffers when you injure one part. The whole body is put under stress trying to compensate for the suffering part. I Corinthians 12:26 teaches us to really care for one another by entering into their sorrow or joy. Does I Corinthians 12:26 describe you when you hear about another member's suffering or success? Spend time this week meditating on the *body of Christ and your relationships with other members in the body.* Share a specific way I Corinthians 12:(14-24)25b,26 nudges you to put these verses into practice.

4. In I Corinthians 12:(27)28 the first three gifts refer to spiritually gifted individuals God has set in the church (see also Ephesians 4:11). They are themselves gifts the Lord bestows on the church. What do you think is the point of the questions Paul asks in I Corinthians 12:29,30?

5. I Corinthians 12:31a exhorts us to _____

- a. Define the word *earnestly*.
 - b. The word *best* has been paraphrased elsewhere *the most useful*. Think of this in light of profiting the whole church or body of Christ. If this is your *earnest* desire write your prayer here.
6. The *more excellent way* of I Corinthians 12:31b is **LOVE**. How could lack of love in the ministering of our gifts prevent their profiting the body?

*Ah, how skillful grows the hand that obeyeth love's command!
It is the heart and not the brain, that to the highest doth attain,
And he who followeth love's behest far excelleth all the rest.*

H.W. Longfellow

SIXTH DAY: Review I Corinthians 11, 12

1. Review I Corinthians 11. How is this chapter applicable to your life?
2. If someone claiming to be speaking by the Spirit of God called Jesus *accursed*, what would you *be aware* of?
3. From I Corinthians 12, what specific insight have you gained concerning *spiritual gifts*?
4. State the primary purpose for the bestowal of these gifts.
 - a. How do we receive these gifts?
5. Why is each member of the body essential to the body?
 - a. In what way has this lesson increased your appreciation for other members of the body?
 - b. What believer are you *rejoicing* with or *suffering* with currently?
6. Share a specific way this lesson ministered to you and is affecting your walk today.
7. How can you tell if you are walking in the *more excellent way*?
 - a. Identify a few of the characteristics evident in one who is walking in the *more excellent way*.

*The difference between "duty" and "love"
is that the first represents
Sinai and the second represents Calvary.*

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