

correcting carnality

1 CORINTHIANS

Sermon Series Notes



"Tradition, Truth, And Contentious People" (I Cor.11:1-16)

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Intro: I love the way Chuck Swindoll introduces this chapter "Picture yourself on a ship during world war II, drifting into a harbor's quiet mouth. Although the waters are calm, the skies clear, you stop and wait for the harbor pilot to take the ship's wheel and weave you through the pathless waters leading to the dock. At first this seems unnecessary, since the dock is clearly visible just ahead. But as you look over the ship's railing into the glassy water, you begin to understand why. Strategically hidden beneath the water's wavy surface are highly charged mines that will explode if nudged by a ship's hull. And only the harbor pilot knows where they are. So he steers you through the waters, discreetly dodging the lurking mines. Like the waters of this harbor, the waters of I Corinthians 11 are not difficult, but they are delicate. They are charged with explosive issues that have brought disaster to many churches "

Read the text

I. THE TRADITION

* Women in this culture wore veils. It was not just something the churches practiced, but was a cultural norm. The only women in Corinth who did not cover their heads were prostitutes.

* Sometimes we do things that are part of our culture, but we don't know why we do it (examples). Paul brings out the truth behind the tradition.

* The truth behind the tradition is the most important thing, not the tradition itself.

* Any outward tradition, even those that have truth connected to them in some way, are useless if the heart is not in submission to God.

* Rom.2: 28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.

29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

* Matt.23: 5 "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long

* Anyone can practice a tradition/custom/ordinance and yet not live out the truth behind the tradition.

- Church attendance
- Communion (I Cor.11b)

II. THE TRUTH BEHIND THE TRADITION

A. Design In Creation

B. Distinction Between The Sexes

* Gen.1: 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male** and **female** he created them.

* OT verses on not being effeminate dress for men and women

* It is our practice (custom, tradition) at CCSP not to marry men to men or women to women.

- Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve

C. Dignity

* Dignity: Worthy of honor or respect; excellence

* Eph. 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life **worthy** of the calling you have received.

* In the culture of Corinth, only loose women and prostitutes did not wear veils. The veil let everyone know that she was either married or under the authority of her parents.

D. Authority & Responsibility

1. Authority

* Verse 10 "and because of the angels" see I Cor.4:9; Eph.3:10; I Tim.5:21; Jude 6. Angels are hypersensitive about things being done in order, and about issues of submission. Why? They saw one-third of their company cast out of heaven after one of them said, "I want to do my own thing."

* The veil for women was an outward sign of the authority God had placed over her. Paul says beyond the tradition of the veil, nature itself teaches this truth. How? Nature's gift of hair to women not too many bald women and in most cultures, women's hair styles are longer than men's.

* Swindoll (p.74) - "Search the whole Bible and you still will not find a scissor length for haircuts Your style should support your sexual identity, not obscure it."

* There is another tradition we have in our culture (and most that I know of) that speaks of this truth. What is it? When a woman marries a man, she takes on his name.

2. Responsibility

* God created man to be the **head** of the woman. Headship involves leadership and responsibility. The man is not to rule over the woman, but protect and provide for the woman.

- Eph.5:23
- Sin messed things up (Gen.3:16b), and now the sinful nature leads the woman to be independent of the man, and the man to rule over the woman.
- Joke: Man who married woman from Oklahoma

* God created the woman to be a "help mate" for the man (Gen.2:18).

- 5828. 'ezer, ay'-zer; from H5826; aid:--help.
- God saw that the man needed help (aid).
- Joke: Crossing the river woman walked to the bridge

* It is our practice (custom, tradition) at CCSP not to ordain women as pastors.

- I Tim.2:11-15
- Eph.5, family patterned after the church

* Note: Jesus liberated women in his day, and yet when it came time to choose his leadership team, he chose twelve men. There were plenty of women he could have chosen (see Luke 8:1-3). The leadership under Moses were all men. The qualifications for elders are for men (the husband of one wife).

E. Christ's Example

* Phil.2:5-7; Rom.9:5; John 10:30; 14:28; 8:29

* Jesus willingly submitted to the authority of the Father. He is not in any way inferior to the Father. And women are not in any way inferior to men.

III. CONTENTIOUS PEOPLE

* Contentious: 5380. philoneikos, fil-on'-i-kos; from G5384 and neikos (a quarrel; prob. akin to G3534); fond of strife, i.e. disputatious:--contentious.

* Paul says "we" have no other practice, nor do "the churches of God." In other words, this is not open to debate. The "we" seems to refer to the cultural tradition, which was in agreement with the church tradition. In years past here in America, marriage was traditionally accepted to be between a man and a woman. That is not true today. So the homosexual community would be contentious about this tradition/truth. Also, people in Calvary Chapel who believe its ok for women to be pastors might be contentious about this.

* Note: In our day, anyone can find a church that agrees with their point of view, if you're willing to do a little searching

IV. CLOSING THOUGHTS

A. Religious Tradition Must Be Based On Truth

* Matt. 15: 8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

B. Even Religious Tradition Based On Truth Is Worthless If Truth Is Not Being Lived Out.

C. Living Out The Truth Of The Text

* Main lesson: Are we living in submission to the God ordained authority He has placed in our lives?

D. Signs Of Submission (Men)

1. Considerate toward the woman

* I Peter 3: 7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge (NIV = be considerate), giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel,
- Word for honor = 5092. time, tee-may'; from G5099; a value, i.e. money paid, or (concr. and collect.) valuables; by anal. esteem (espec. of the highest degree), or the dignity itself:--honour, precious, price, some.

2. Care for her as you would yourself

* See Ephesians 5:25-30

* Authority is always for protection and provision

3. Commitment to her above all others

* Eph.5: 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

* The children must not become the center of the home; the parents must not become the center of the home. The husband and wife are to be the center of the home!

4. Consecrated himself to the Lord

- Deut.6: 5-9

5. No independence

E. Signs of Submission (Women)

1. Respect

* Eph.5: 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

* Note: What if he is not worthy of my respect? See I Peter 3:1-6.

2. Responsibilities of the home

* Titus 2: 3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

* Prov.31 business minded woman dedicated first and foremost to her family!

3. Reasonable Dress

* Reasonable: Not extreme or excessive; moderate; inexpensive.

* I Tim.2: 9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

* The man should be able to say, She treats me like a king, and the woman should be able to say, He treats me like a queen.

4. No independence