

# Messy

Part Thirteen: *church order*

July 31, 2022

One of the biggest problems in the Corinthian church was disorder in the church service. Some church members were abusing their freedom in Christ; some church members were dishonoring the Lord's Supper, and some church members were misusing their spiritual gifts. In chapters 11-14, Paul helps the divided Corinthian Church understand what to do and not do in church.

- **In 1 Cor. 11:3-16, Paul tells the women in the church to be submissive to their husbands and to the Lord.**

Women's hair was an object of lust in antiquity, so women were expected to pull their shawl over their heads when in public. The covering of the head in public showed that a woman was devoted to her husband and to purity. The only women that wore short hair and refused to cover their head in public in those days were the temple prostitutes who walked about the city inviting men to have sex with them.

***In verses 3-16, Paul gave the Christian women in Corinth five reasons to cover their heads in church:***

1. It shows honor to their husbands and to Christ. Vs. 3-5
2. It agrees with the plan of creation itself, for God created woman for man. Vs. 7-9
3. It shows the holy angels you are submissive to the Lord. Vs. 10
4. Nature itself gives women long hair and men short hair. Vs. 11-15
5. The women in Corinth should cover their heads during worship because women are doing so in all the other Christian churches. Vs. 16

*How does Paul's teaching apply to us today?* Women should not show off in church. Our eyes, minds, and hearts should be focused on the Lord when we are in church – not your new hairstyle! (1 Timothy 2:8-9)

- **In 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Paul tells the Corinthian Church to properly observe Communion.**

The Corinthian church was not practicing the agape feast or communion properly. Some church members were refusing to eat with people outside of their friend and family group. The rich people in the church were not sharing their food with the poor. Some church members were getting drunk during the agape feast. Some church members were eating the agape feast then observing Communion before the other church members arrived at the church service.

1<sup>st</sup> – Paul condemns the Corinthians for not properly observing the love feast and the Lord's Supper. Vs. 18-22

2<sup>nd</sup> – Paul reminds the Corinthians of the importance of Communion. Vs. 23-26

Communion is a reminder of what Jesus did for us on Calvary, the covenant Jesus made with us with His blood, and that Jesus is coming again someday to take us to Heaven.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Paul warns Christians that God will judge and severely discipline them if they do not honor Christ during Communion.

*The lesson for today is...*

**Christians need to worship properly to bless others and be blessed by God!**