

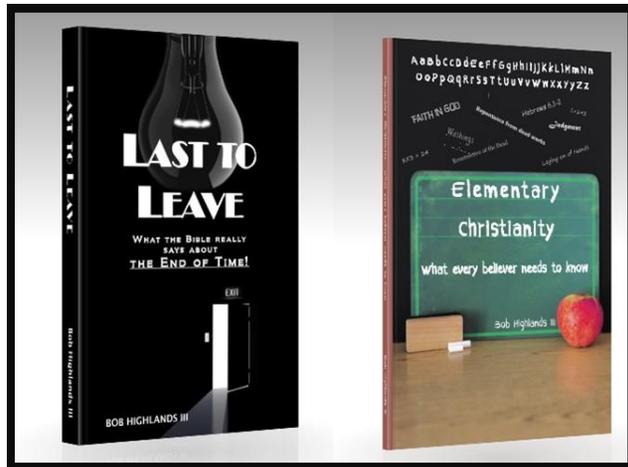
1 Corinthians Study Guide

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THE SEVENTH PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

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The translation quoted here is the New International Version (NIV)

WOMEN AND THEIR HAIR IN THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 11.2-16 ^{NASB}

- ♦ Remember, Paul was very careful to make a distinction between his own held opinions, teachings, traditions, practices and those teachings and truths which came from God.
- ♦ Read 1 Cor. 7.10, 11 & 12 How does Paul distinguish between what is his opinion and the directions from God?
- ♦ Why is this important to remember and know when reading Paul's writings, especially 1 Corinthians?
- ♦ Read 1 Cor. 11.2 (Note: the word sometimes translated teachings is the word that means "a handing down" or "traditions.") Who delivered or shared these traditions with the church at Corinth?

- ◆ How are traditions different from doctrines of the church?
- ◆ Read 1 Cor. 11.16 What type of instructions was Paul sharing with the church at Corinth?
- ◆ Would this be considered the same as doctrines of the church? Why or why not?
- ◆ Why is it important to know that Paul is speaking about traditions and practices when reading this section of 1 Corinthians? (vss. 2 & 16)
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 11.3 What order does Paul set up here for the church?
- ◆ Why would a church like the one at Corinth need such instructions?
- ◆ NOTE: Paul also talks about order in the church and family in Ephesians 5.22-27. In this section it needs to be noted the wife is to submit or protect the marriage from evil and the husband is to love his wife in a sacrificial manner even as Jesus loved the church. This is about each giving 100% to the marriage and not about who is boss or in charge. This is about sharing and sacrifice.

- ◆ Gal. 3.28 What is the key to removing these barriers that exist in the world?
- ◆ Can this be used as an excuse to allow sinful people to participate in the fellowship of the church?
- ◆ Gal 3.29 Paul uses the condition word "if." What does this imply he wants them to understand.
- ◆ How does John 14.6 help us understand this?

FINAL QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- ◆ What are the limits a church must be aware of if they put their own practices or traditions in place?
- ◆ How can different traditions or practices help a church?
- ◆ How can different traditions or practices hurt a church?
- ◆ What traditions or practices does your church have that make it unique?

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Read Galatians 3.26-29 and answer the following questions.

- ◆ Gal 3.26 What term does Paul use to describe both men and women?
- ◆ Genesis 5.2 How does that correspond to what God said when he first created Adam and Eve?
- ◆ Gal 3.27 How does our relationship with Jesus make this equality possible?
- ◆ Gal 3.28 What three ways does Paul show that there are not any differences in the Kingdom?
- ◆ How could each one of these be applied in the church in our modern times?
- ◆ What danger is there in taking this message too far?
- ◆ What are the limits of apply these three illustrations to the church today?

- ◆ Read 1 Cor. 11.4–7 and answer the following questions.
- ◆ How does Paul view long hair on men?
- ◆ Why does he hold this point of view?
- ◆ How does Paul view short hair on women?
- ◆ Why does he hold this point of view?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.8-9 What point is Paul trying to make here?
- ◆ How does Genesis 2.18 help us understand this?
- ◆ What is the difference between a helper and a slave?
- ◆ Which one was Eve created to be?
- ◆ How does this help us understand what Paul is trying to say to the Corinthian church?

- ♦ 1 Cor. 11.10 What is Paul's reasoning for having a woman's head covered in church?
- ♦ 1 Cor. 11.11 How is Paul's teaching here different than what he has just stated?
- ♦ 1 Cor. 11.12 What does Paul see as the key or foundation for harmony and understanding in the church?
- ♦ 1 Cor. 11.13 Going back to his personal position who does Paul call on to make a decision?
- ♦ How does this help us to know that this is about personal choices and not on what God has established?
- ♦ 1 Cor. 11.14-15 How does Paul try to get them to see his point of view?
- ♦ 1 Cor. 11.16 Does Paul recognize that people may still disagree with him on his point of view about the hair?
- ♦ What does he finally base his opinion on?

- ♦ How do other churches Paul knows handle this situation?
- ♦ Why could Paul have the attitude toward women and long hair he does and still allow each person and each church to make their own choices on the matter?
- ♦ Read 1 Cor. 11. 2 & 16 again. What is the key to understanding this section and how Paul handles this?
- ♦ Read 1 Cor. 11.11 What is the one thing he expects them to all agree on even if they cannot agree on hair and covering the heads for worship?
- ♦ How can this be used to help solve problems in the local churches in the 21st century?
- ♦ How can traditions or practices be a good thing for a church?
- ♦ How can traditions or practices be a bad thing for a church?