

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 11:1-5

Praying and Prophesying Honorably

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April 21, 2024

Paul Praises Them Despite Issues

1 Corinthians 11:1-2 (ESV)
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.

- Tradition (*parádosis*) is 'handed over' and can be a good or bad thing (here good)
- What makes these good is that Paul speaks of true, apostolic doctrine from Christ

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The Context Is Important

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (LEB)
Therefore, whether you eat or you drink or whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God, Give no offense both to Jews and to Greeks and to the church of God, just as I also please all people in all things, not seeking my own benefit, but the benefit of the many, in order that they may be saved.

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Priorities in Christian Worship

1. That God would be honored and glorified
2. That no offense would be given
3. That gender distinctions grounded in creation be preserved
4. That we avoid bringing shame to anyone in the Lord's flock
5. That we do not glory in personal status

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Headship

1 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)
But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

- This is relational and not intended to diminish anyone's relative value to God
- Debate: is headship 'source,' 'authority,' or something else?
- Paul includes Christ and God to show Christ as the exemplar (1 Cor. 15:24, 28)

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Head Covering & Gender Issues

1 Corinthians 11:4-5 (ESV)
Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.

- Prophesying is mentioned in Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17-18
- Joel 2:26-27: "never being put to shame"
- Worship must honor God and His flock

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Implications and Applications

- Christians have distinctions in gender but not in their honored status in Christ.

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One in Christ

Galatians 3:28, 29 (NASB)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, **there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

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Role Distinctions

Ephesians 5:21-23 (LEB)

being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ —wives to their own husbands as to the Lord, because **the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church** (he himself being the Savior of the body).

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