

## OUR EXAMPLE

In 1 Corinthians 10 Paul explains that *glorious experiences* don't always produce *godly living*... He uses the Old Testament Hebrews to prove his point...

These people saw the supernatural on an almost daily basis - the glory cloud, the parting of the Red Sea, the miracle manna, water gushing from a rock...

Guys, the Hebrews were privy to miracle after miracle, yet they still lusted after evil things. Think of it: they saw the glory of heaven, but died on the desert floor.

Paul says in verse 6 that their experience is an example to us. Don't pursue idols, or commit sexual immorality, or tempt the Lord, or grumble and murmur.

### Devotion Box - The Temptation Situation

1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

When you find yourself in a temptation situation, remember four truths...

*First, you're not alone.* It's been said, "Temptation is the price for being human." We're all tempted in the same ways. Don't let the temptation situation alienate you from other believers.

Their empathy is a needed source of strength.

*Second, God is faithful.* He doesn't abandon you in the temptation situation.

*Third, the temptation is bearable.* God refuses to let us be tempted more than we can handle. He will either *temper the temptation*, or *increase our resistance*.

*Fourth, there's always a way out.* Every temptation comes with an escape. It's up to us to look for it... but it's there. Our job is to find the exit and run for daylight.

## CHAPTER 11 - PIGGING OUT AT THE POT-LUCK

The second half of chapter 11 deals with abuses occurring at the Lord's table. Again, the church's public gatherings were doing more harm than good. Paul says in verse 17, "you come together not for the better but for the worse."

The early church shared communion as part of a larger meal they called "*the agape feast*". This was the ancient equivalent of a modern-day church pot-luck or wing fling. It was also an opportunity for the poorer members to get a good meal. But some of the Corinthians were using the *pot-luck* as an opportunity to *pig-out*. Verse 21 says they were barging ahead of others, and leaving no food for those at the end of the line. It was disgraceful, rude, and selfish. In verse 22 Paul says if all you want is a meal...

then just stay home!

Once a little boy partook of his first communion. As he took the wafer and cup, his father whispered, "This was the Lord's last supper." He looked up and answered, "They sure didn't give him much, did they?"

Rather than focus on the meaning of the meal the Corinthians were fixated on the meal itself. This was an "*agape*" or "*love feast*" - not "*a let's get fat feast*".

Paul recalls the commandment he received from Jesus, "Take, eat: this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me... This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." It was all to be done in remembrance of Jesus! They had forgotten.

## DANGEROUS EXPOSURE

1 Corinthians 10:21 makes it clear that demons are behind all idolatry. Paul concludes, "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons..." Pagan rituals are dangerous to the participant.

A fortune cookie is nothing but a mix of flour and sugar, but the message inside is sorcery. It's a means of predicting the future apart from the Word and will of God. The message doesn't contaminate the cookie. I'll eat the cookie, but I don't read the message. I toss it because I don't want to participate in what has demonic overtones. Paul tells the Corinthians who had visited the pagan temples that though the meat they ate was innocuous - the temple rituals were not. Demons were behind those rituals and their participation was dangerous exposure.

## CHAPTER 11 - SYMBOLS OF SUBMISSION

In the first half of chapter 11 Paul brings up the Corinthians disregard for male and female roles. Verse 3, "I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

Notice, the head of Christ is God, but does that make Him any less one, or equal to God? No! Apparently, the relationship within the Godhead is based on order - not importance or value. Someone leads and someone follows.

Likewise, the fact that the man is head of the woman doesn't make him better. Their relationship is also *an ordered equality*. They both are of equal worth, but God has assigned them different roles. The man has been called to lead and the woman to follow. I know that's out of fashion, but that's the Bible. You can obey it or buck it!

Now here was the problem in Corinth... In oriental culture *wearing a veil* and *long hair* were symbols of a woman's submission. When these Christian sisters threw off these traditions they were making a statement that misrepresented biblical convictions. They sent the wrong message to the world around them. Paul tells them to make sure they cover their heads when praying in public.

How does this apply to us? In 21<sup>st</sup> century America the symbols have changed, but the principle remains the same. A veil no longer means what it did in Paul's day, but there are other symbols of a biblical chain of command...

For example, taking your husband's last name, wearing a ring, certain work and living arrangements... all are suppose to convey a woman's attitude toward her husband. Paul is saying that women need to take these symbols seriously.

Ladies, the world needs to see that you've embraced God's order for the family. At home and in church men should lead and women maintain a submissive spirit.

Verses 8-9 tell us, "For man is not from woman, but

### MORE HARM THAN GOOD

The public assemblies of the church at Corinth had gotten out of hand. When they met, it should've been a time of encouragement - instead it was chaos. Their meetings did more harm than good. In chapters 11-14, Paul addresses issues that were causing disruption and disrespect in the church's public meetings.

### Devotion Box - Without Love...

We've all met people who thought they were better than others because they spoke in tongues or received words of knowledge. Paul says, so what if you speak in tongues, prophesy, or have faith to move mountains... if you lack love, you're nothing! God's greatest gift is love.

Ironically, the Corinthians prove that the demonstration of spiritual gifts fail to measure a person's spiritual maturity. *You can be both charismatic and carnal*. The real mark of a Spirit-filled believer is not tongues, but love.

woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man." Male and female roles go back to Adam and Eve. God created maleness and femaleness.

Men and women are different - just watch little girls play, as compared to little boys. The androgynous society the world has created is an affront to our God-given diversity. We should appreciate the differences between male and female - not deny they exist or try to change them. The symbols of submission vary among cultures... but the principle is universal.

Paul also mentions hair. In ancient culture only the prostitutes wore short hair. Again, a Christian woman may be free to shave her head, but why go out in public knowing she'll be mistaken as a prostitute? What kind of a witness is that?

The teaching *really gets hairy* in verse 14, "Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering."

In general, nature does dictate that women will have longer hair. In his younger years a man can grow his hair long, but in old age, nature gets the last laugh. Bald heads prevail. Today hair length is probably just a fashion statement - and who's to say what constitutes long and short? Paul never defines how long is long...

But sometimes hair length does go beyond fashion and makes a statement. In the 60s, long hair among men symbolized cultural revolution. In the 70s, feminists cut their hair short. Hair represented the throwing off biblical values and roles. If that sort of thing were going on you'd want to be conscious of your actions. Paul's whole point is to be careful what you do isn't misinterpreted. It's better to curtail your freedom than make a statement that contradicts your faith.

### Devotion Box - God's Power Tools

Once a lumberjack bought a chainsaw... The guy at the hardware store told him he'd chop four times more wood than with an ax. But after several tries the frustrated lumberjack brought the chainsaw back to the hardware store. The manager cranked it up to determine the problem. When he did, the lumberjack asked, "What's that noise?"

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are power tools. They are supernatural abilities made possible by the Holy Spirit. They go beyond learned skills or natural abilities... And we need them to do the work God has called us to do.

Paul lists 9 manifestations of the Spirit... *word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits...* are supernaturally revealed insight. *Faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles...* enable supernatural action. *Prophecy, different kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues* - provide supernatural communication.

And note the guiding principle for all the gifts... Verse 7, "the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all." Their purpose is not *the pride of a few* - it's *the profit of all*. Spiritual gifts make you more others-centered.

## THE BODY

In chapter 12 God uses the human body as an analogy for the Church. Your body consists of trillions of cells and 10 major organs working in sync. It's a blend of unity and diversity... *and so is the body of Christ!* The Church is made up of many members functioning in harmony.

Verse 13 says, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one..." We're all baptized, or initiated, into the same body by the same Holy Spirit! The same Spirit alive in you, is also alive in me. We are inseparably linked.

And this is why we are so interdependent! We all have different gifts and callings - and we need each other! Paul says in verse 17, "If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?"

So what if you're a 20-20 eyeball. Or a capable hand - how useful are you on your own? *Not very!* If we voted on your usefulness, you'd lose *hands down!*... We would all lose! On our own we're all out of place - even gross. *We*

*find our beauty in the body - our function in the family.*

Verse 21 adds, "And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." One member of the body is not more important than the other. Every part plays a pivotal role.

Imagine your poor feet! You stuff'em in socks each morning, and cover'em up with cool shoes. They're never seen - rarely appreciated. What happens, though, when your feet develop a blister? The pain preoccupies your whole body - you're shut down - you can't move - every other member of the body feels *de-feeted*.

On a Little League team you find out quickly all the kids want to pitch. Everyone wants a glamour position. But 9 pitchers and no fielders don't make a good team.

This can be a problem in the church. A team with all pitchers won't be a successful team. God is the manager, and He decides positions. Verse 18, "God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased." The key to fulfillment in Christian service is to find your God-appointed position.

## "THAT WHICH IS PERFECT"

Often folks opposed to supernatural gifts will use 13:10 to explain why the gifts have ceased... "when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away." They teach "that which is perfect", or *complete*, is the New Testament body of Scripture - the canon. But that's not true! The Bible tells us all we need to know

- not all there is to know.

"That which is perfect" isn't the *canon*, but *heaven*. Until we walk golden streets, we'll need all the spiritual gifts. Verse 12, "Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known."

## TONGUES AND PROPHECY

14:3 sums it up the purpose of a prophecy. It produces "edification and exhortation and comfort". Prophecy *builds up, stirs up, and cheers up*. Prophecy is a spontaneous, supernatural utterance. Tongues is a praise or prayer to God. Verses 2-3 teach us *prophecy is God speaking to man, while tongues is man speaking to God*.

Paul explains the mechanics of tongues in verse 14, "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful." My heart, not my head, prays. There are times in my worship when I can't find words to express my feelings toward God. The only language I know is English and I know very little of that. But God's vocabulary is limitless. He knows the exact phrase to match my moods.

In my moments of frustration God will stream words into my mind that I won't understand - but if I trust God and utter those words - the unknown tongue will bring release to my emotions. My stumbling speech becomes

fluent praise. Worshipping God without this gift is like going to a football game with my mouth taped shut. Tongues strips off the tape, and lets me praise God with all I've got.

Verse 4 mentions a major difference between tongues and prophecy. "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church." Tongues benefit the person speaking, but not the person who happens to hear... Unless that person knows the language, to them it's just gibberish. A prophecy though benefits all who hear the message. This is why Paul says in verse 5, "I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied..."

From verses 6-17 Paul explains the futility of speaking in a language no one knows. He sums it up his thoughts in verses 18-19, "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue." The place for tongues is not the public assembly - but in personal worship.

**Devotion Box -  
Never Give Up, Never  
Give In, Never Give Out**

Paul concludes in 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Be steadfast - *never give up*. Be immovable - *never give in*. Be always abounding in the work of the Lord - *never give out*. For the believer in Jesus the best is yet to come!

# Bible Scan - 1 Corinthians 10-16

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - [sandyadams@calvarychapel.org](mailto:sandyadams@calvarychapel.org)  
For back issues of Bible Scan study guides: [www.calvarychapelstonemountain.com/biblescan.htm](http://www.calvarychapelstonemountain.com/biblescan.htm)

Calvary Chapel Announcements - Mature Singles Barbecue: Friday, May 31st at 6:30 PM  
Wing Fling: Sunday, June 2nd at 5:30 PM  
High School/Middle School Retreat: Sunday, July 14th-Sunday, July 21st  
Kid's Camp: 1-2nd grade, Tues, 7/16—Thurs 7/18; 3rd—5th grade, Thurs, 7/18—Sun, 7/21

Next Bible Scan - June 9, 2002 - 2 Corinthians 1-7

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” - 1 Corinthians 13:13

Bible Scan  
Memory Verse

## TONGUES A SIGN

1 Corinthians 14:21 quotes Isaiah. When the Jews heard foreign tongues in the streets it meant God had brought an invading army to judge them. That's why Paul says in verse 22, “tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers...” When an uninformed person or unbeliever enters the church and hears us speaking in tongues it's proof he's not in tune with spiritual things. His ignorance judges him.

But why would we want to judge him before he has the opportunity to hear of God's love? The gift of tongues might scare him off! He hears the tongues, thinks we've flipped, and never returns. As Paul says in verse 23, “will they not say you are out of your mind?” What good is that? This is why Calvary discourages tongues in our public assemblies. Our purpose here is worship and the Word.

## PROPER PROTOCOL

1 Corinthians 14:26-40 describe the protocol for smaller participatory meetings where tongues is allowed. The overarching rule is verse 26, “Let all things be done for edification.” The goal is the betterment of all— not just the gratification of a few. That's the purpose of Paul's parameters...

Verse 27 says let there be 2 or 3 utterances in tongues... and each in turn. Paul forbids the chaos of everyone speaking in tongues at the same time. Verse 28 adds that each tongue should be interpreted, and if nobody present has the gift of interpretation, it's time to turn off the tongues.

Which implies *a spiritual gift is controlled by the person - the person isn't controlled by the gift*. Don't blurt out in tongues, then say you couldn't help it. “*The Spirit made me.*” You control the volume, reverb, and on/off switch. As Paul puts it, verse 32, “The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”

## DO ALL SPEAK IN TONGUES ?

All Christians need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but 1 Corinthians 12:29-30 teaches that not all Christians will speak in tongues.

Paul writes, “Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings?” The answer to all these questions is “NO!”... as is the answer to the next question, “Do all speak with tongues?”

Verse 31 tells us to “earnestly desire the best gifts.” We need to desire spiritual gifts - and certainly the gift of tongues. If you don't ask, you probably won't receive.

## PLANTED ON EARTH TO BLOOM IN HEAVEN

In 1 Corinthians 15:20 Paul calls Jesus the resurrection's “firstfruits”. But we'll follow suit..

Paul asks himself a question in verse 35, “But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” Paul compares our present bodies to a seed. First the seed dies in order to sprout the wheat.

My wife likes to plant bulbs - ugly, gnarly, twisted bulbs. When she plants them it's hard to realize they'll sprout into beautiful flowers. Likewise, our ugly, gnarly, twisted bodies must die in order for us to receive a new improved model. A tombstone reads, “*Budded on earth to bloom in heaven.*”

In verse 39-40 Paul says there are different types of bodies - heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. One day we'll shed

our earth suits, and God will cloth us in a body fit for the glory of God - a heavenly, spiritual, glorified body.

Once I had a friend with cancer. Before he died I asked if I could do anything for him... He told me, “No, unless you can get me another body.” I told him, “I can't, but I have a friend who can!” Verse 48 says *the old bod is from the sod - the new bod is from God*. The old is sowed in death so the new can sprout to eternal life.

Verse 49 says we'll be clothed in a body just like Jesus after His resurrection - unlimited by time and space - can dematerialize and travel at the speed of thought - that's as comfortable in heaven as it is on earth. I can't wait to trade in my earth suit for a body fit for the heavenly scene.