

1 Corinthians 9

1. Why is love more important than knowledge?
-Because knowledge can bring pride, but love helps us to learn from God and others.
2. What is the best type of knowledge?
-Knowing God
3. Since God knows everything, what does the Word of God mean when it says to be known by God?
-It means that we belong to God, and He belongs to us.
-It means that we are God's and He is ours.
4. What is more important than anything else in all of eternity?
-Loving God and allowing God to love us.
5. Why are there no demons nor Satan who have any power over Christians?
-Because Christ in us is greater than Satan and all of the demons.
6. Why would there be no problem in our lives if we Christians would eat food sacrificed to an idol?
-Because sacrificing food to an idol does nothing to the food.
7. Why does sacrificing food to an idol do nothing to the food?
-Because an idol is nothing but stone or wood or metal.

8. What does it mean that strong Christians can become a stumbling block to the weak?
-It means that strong Christians can hurt the faith of weak Christians.
9. How can strong Christians hurt the faith of weak Christians?
-When they do something that leads the weak Christians to do that which they do not want to do.
-When they do something that leads the weak Christians to go back to their previous sins.
10. What should a strong Christian do when we are with weaker Christians?
-We should do nothing that will cause our brother or sister to fall or to sin.
11. Even though the Israelites were united under Moses as Christians are united in Christ, what happened to Israel?
-God punished them because they abused their faith instead of protecting their faith.
12. If we think that we are standing strong like the Israelites, what should we be careful about?
-We should be careful that we don't fall.
13. Is temptation evil?
-No.
-It is our response to the temptation, however, that can lead to evil.

14. Why did God the Father allow Jesus to be tempted?
-To teach us that the Word of God is more powerful than evil.

15. Why does God allow us Christians to be tempted?
-To teach us to depend on God and His Word.

16. Why must we flee from idolatry?
-When we are worshiping something or someone rather than God, we are rejecting God.

-In the first part of chapter 11, we will read about the problem of men and women in the church.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:1

1-Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

-It is good to follow other Christians' example if they live a life full of Christ.

-We should not, however, follow other Christians' example if they do not follow Christ.

-Whose example did Paul follow?
-The example of Christ.

-Our greatest example is the Lord Jesus Christ.

-What is the example of Christ for us all?

-Jesus emptied Himself and filled Himself up with the Father.

-Jesus gave His life so that others would live.

-As Christians, how can we be content in this world?

-We will only be content when we empty ourselves of ourselves, and fill ourselves up with Christ.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:2

2-I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you.

-As we learned in a previous lesson, it is good to encourage others first before we talk to them about their problems.

-This is the second time in this letter that God and Paul are encouraging the Corinthians before they talk to them about their problems.

-What are the traditions that Paul passed on to the Corinthians?

-The teachings of Christ that Paul had taught the Corinthians when he was with them in Corinth.

-The problem, however, was not with the teaching, but

rather with the Corinthians lack of understanding of the teaching.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:3

3-But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

-When the Word of God teaches us that the head of the woman is man, does this mean that men and women are not equal?

-No.

-Women are not less important than men.

-Women are also not an inferior copy of the image of God.

-Before God, women are just as important as men, and have also been created in the same image of God as men.

-God and Paul are not talking about equality.

-We know this because God created men and women equal and before God, all men and all women are equal.

-In the verse above, God and Paul are talking about the order which God Himself has given to all of life.

-Even though men and women are equal much like the Father and the Son are equal, God has placed women

under the authority of men much like Christ is under the authority of the Father.

-Just as God is the head of Christ, and Christ is the head of men, so men are the head of women.

-This is God's design for order in the world as well as order within families and order within the church.

-Does this mean that men should treat women as inferior to them?

-No.

-This means that men must treat women with special care.

-As we learned in Ephesians 5:25, men are to love their wives as Christ loves the church.

-For the following verses of 1 Corinthians 11:4-16, these verses have been difficult to translate, and therefore, difficult to understand.

-We should know, however, that these verses are talking about men and women when we are worshiping God together in church.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:4-6

4-Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head.

5-But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved.

6-For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.

-For the Christian woman, what is the head covering a picture of?

-It is a picture that she is unique and different from a man.

-It is also a picture that she understands the God-given order for which God has created her.

-In the verses above, what is the meaning of prophesy?
-It means to teach.

-Therefore, the Word of God teaches us that a woman should wear a head covering when she is leading prayer or teaching in the church.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:7-10

7-A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

8-For man did not come from woman, but woman from man;

9-neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

10-It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels.

-How does a man show respect for God and leaders?
-He takes off his hat.

-How does a woman show respect for God and leaders?
-She covers her head.

-What does it mean that man is the image and glory of God?

-That God created man using the image and glory of God.

-What does it mean that a woman is the glory of man?

-That God created woman using the image and glory of man.

-When the Word of God teaches us that woman was created for man, does this mean that the woman is the man's slave?

-No.

-It means that God created the woman to be a helper and a friend to the man, to share happiness and sadness while under his care and protection.

-What is another reason that a woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head during worship service?

-Because of the angels.

-As angels show respect and serve God, so the woman is to show respect and serve the man.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:11-12

11-Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

12-For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

-Even though God has chosen men to have authority over women, does this mean that men are independent of women?

-No. We both need one other.

-God has designed that men and women should work together as a team.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:13-16

13-Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

14-Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him,

15-but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering.

16-If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.

-What does life teach us about men and women?

-That God has created men and women to be different, and that we should respect this difference.

-Men should dress and wear their hair as men, and not as women.

-Likewise, women should dress and wear their hair as women, and not as men.

-Men will never become women, nor will women ever become men.

-This is because God has created men only to be men, and He has also created women only to be women.

-For the last part of chapter 11, we will learn about the Lord's Supper.

-What is the Lord's Supper?

-It is remembering the Lord Jesus' death on the cross.

-Why is it called the Lord's Supper?

-Because the Lord Jesus did this before He was crucified.

-Just as the Passover celebrates God saving Israel from Egypt, the Lord's Supper celebrates God saving us from sin.

-What was the problem in Corinth with the Lord's Supper?

-Instead of honoring Christ and His church, the Corinthian Christians were dishonoring Christ and His church.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:20-22

20-So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat,

21-for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk.

22-Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

-At the church in Corinth, the Christians were celebrating the Lord's Supper by eating and drinking like pagans.

-One of the problems was that some of the Christians were gorging themselves, and would not share their food with the poor Christians.

-Another problem was that some of the Christians were

drinking so much wine that they became drunk.

-The purpose of the Lord's Supper is not to gorge oneself on food and wine while not sharing with others.

-What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?

-1) To remember Christ's death on the cross, and to thank Him for saving us from sin and death.

-2) To remind us that we are all one family because of the death of Christ on the cross.

-As the Christians were gorging on food and getting drunk, they were not celebrating the Lord's Supper.

-Rather, they were dishonoring Christ and His church.

-The Lord's Supper is to unify Christians, but in Corinth, the Christians were divided.

-The Lord's Supper is to humble ourselves together before Christ, but in Corinth, Christians were exalting themselves over one another.

-How should we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

23-For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed,

took bread,

24-and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

-How did Paul know about the Lord's Supper when he was not even a Christian until after Christ's resurrection?

-In Galatians 1:17, we learn that Paul went to Arabia after becoming a Christian in Damascus.

-It may have been when Paul was in Arabia that the Lord Jesus taught Paul about the Lord's Supper.

-Why did the Lord Jesus teach us to take bread, break it, and then eat it?

-Because the bread is a sign of Christ's broken body on the cross which He gave to save us.

-Why did Jesus use bread as a sign to remember His broken body?

-Because the Jews ate bread every day.

-In some countries, Christians use rice or other foods instead of bread for the Lord's Supper.

-This is because they have no bread.

-Must we only use bread for the Lord's Supper?

-No.

-It is not important whether we use bread or other foods for the Lord's Supper.

-That which is important is that the sign teaches us that Christ's broken body on the cross has saved us from sin and death and given us eternal life.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:25

25-In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

-Why did the Lord Jesus teach us to take a cup, and drink it?

-Because the wine is a sign of Christ's blood on the cross which He gave to save us.

-Why did Jesus use wine as a sign to remember His blood?

-Because the Jews drank wine every day.

-In some countries, Christians use juice or water instead of wine for the Lord's Supper.

-This is because they have no wine.

-Must we only use wine for the Lord's Supper?

-No.

-It is not important whether we use wine or juice or water for the Lord's Supper.

-That which is important is that the sign teaches us that Christ's blood on the cross has saved us from sin and death and given us eternal life.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:26

26-For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

-How long should Christians continue to celebrate the Lord's Supper to remember His death?

-Until Christ returns to take us to heaven.

-Some churches believe that a priest has the power to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

-And when you take the Lord's Supper in these churches, you are eating Christ's body and drinking Christ's blood.

-This is not true.

-No human has the power to change bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

-In John 6:54, Jesus said this: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

-What is Jesus teaching us?

-He is teaching us about His death on the cross, and that we must believe in His death on the cross to have eternal life.

-The bread and wine are only physical signs to teach us about a spiritual truth.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:27

27-So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

-When we celebrate the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner, what are we guilty of?

-Sinning against the body and blood of the Lord Jesus.

-Without the Lord Jesus' death on the cross, we would all suffer in the Lake of Eternal Fire for the rest of eternity.

-This is why we should honor and respect the Lord Jesus' death on the cross with all of our hearts.

-Here is an illustration:

-When an animal dies, do you bury it?

-No. You throw it in the bush.

-When a relative dies, do you bury the body?

-Yes.

-Would you be respecting your relative if you threw his body in the bush?

-No.

-Instead, you show your love and respect for your relative by carefully preparing the body for burial.

-In the same way, we should honor and respect the Lord Jesus by remembering his broken body and blood poured out for us on the cross.

-What does the Word of God teach us to do before we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:28-30

28-Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

29-For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

30-That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

-Before we celebrate the Lord's Supper, what should we do?

-Examine ourselves.

-For what are we examining ourselves?

-We examine ourselves to remember our sins so that we can repent of the sin in our lives.

-Yet, no one can remember all of his sins, and therefore, no one would be able to celebrate the Lord's Supper if we are examining ourselves only for sin.

-Before we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we also examine ourselves to remember any sins against our family of Christ.

-Because of His death on the cross, Christ has made all who believe in Him to be one family of God.

-It is important to God that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit will always be one.

-Likewise, it is also important to God that all Christians be one family.

-This is the heart of the Lord's Supper, that is, that Christ's death has brought us into Christ's family, and that we are all one.

-What if Christians celebrate the Lord's Supper, but do not honor Christ or His church?

-We eat and drink judgment on ourselves.

-What does it mean to eat and drink judgment on ourselves?

-It means that the Lord Jesus will discipline us.

-Does this mean that the Lord Jesus will condemn us to hell and eternal death?

-No.

-On the cross, the Lord Jesus has paid for all of our sins including the sin of dishonoring Christ and His church.

-Yet, the Lord Jesus had already disciplined many who were eating the Lord's Supper disrespectfully.

-How did the Lord discipline some of the Corinthian Christians for their disrespect?

-He allowed them to become sick and some of them died.

-What does the Word of God call the death of Christians?

-Sleep.

-Their bodies sleep until the Lord returns to raise them from the grave.

-Does this mean that for Christians who die that their spirits also sleep?

-No.

-When Christians die, their spirits leave their bodies to go to heaven to be with the Lord Jesus.

-The Lord Jesus disciplined them because they refused to examine and judge themselves.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:31-32

31-But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

32-Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

-If we are disciplined by God, it is never for condemnation.

-If we are disciplined by God, it is so that we will not be condemned.

-God will even allow our lives to be taken so that we will not be eternally condemned.

-As a father and mother discipline their children so that they will live good lives, God disciplines us, His children, so that we will live good lives.