

# MEN AND WOMEN IN THE CHURCH (PART 1)

1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – JUNE 6, 2021

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## LOOK BACK

*Discuss how God's Word had an impact last week.*

1. Thinking back over this past week, how might you have released a past (or present) struggle during and, instead, more deeply apprehended and rested in the eternal joy and hope you have in Jesus Christ?

## LOOK TO GOD'S WORD

*Study and apply God's Word as a group.*

1. Discussion Starter:
  - Do you view your life as having meaning? If so, what gives it meaning? In other words, what is that source and/or measure of that “meaning”? What, in your estimation, might increase or decrease your life's meaning? What, if anything, would you unhesitatingly give up your entire life for?
  - Reflect, for a time, on your view of the Bible:
    1. Does the Bible matter to you? If so, why? If not, why not?
    2. What does the Bible represent to you? What does it mean to you?
    3. What or who most influences your view of the Bible? What or who increases or decreases your confidence in the Bible's authenticity and authority?
    4. How does the Bible compare, in your view, to other religious books (e.g., the Quran; the Vedas; other religious or philosophical writings, including extra-Biblical Christian and theological books)?
    5. Do you have a Bible? If not, would you like one?
    6. Do you read the Bible? If so, why? For example, what might you hope to find through it? What might you hope to lose through it?
    7. If you do not read the Bible, or have never read it, why is that so?
    8. What questions about the Bible do you have? For example, what parts of Scripture do you find to be the most confusing or the hardest to understand?
2. Recap this week's message by reviewing its main points, shown below:
  - Reasons we know the Bible is God's Word:
    1. **Internal Consistency** – The Bible contains 66 books written by over 40 different authors in 3 different languages over the course of more than 1500 years, and they altogether paint a consistent and clear picture of the gospel (i.e., the good news) of Jesus Christ.
    2. **Manuscript Reliability** – We have over 5,000 full or partial manuscripts of the Greek New Testament (and more manuscripts are found every year, none of which have ever resulted in a major revision), making the Bible by far the most reliably-attested writing in history.



3. **Historical Accuracy** – Covering over 1500 years of history, the Bible has repeatedly been proven to be historically, geographically, and archaeologically accurate.
  4. **Fulfilled Prophecy** – The Bible has accurately predicted history. It contains thousands of prophecies, fulfilled with uncanny precision. This includes an estimated 300 specific prophecies in the Old Testament that were written over hundreds of years and that are fulfilled in detail in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
  5. **Eyewitness Testimony** – People wrote down what they saw, what actually happened. And those who wrote the Bible were often persecuted or martyred for what they were writing, but they wrote it anyway.
  6. **Timeless Authority** – Century after century, the Bible has shown itself to be our judge, and its authority has remained.
  7. **Supernatural Authenticity** – Throughout history, in every age and place where this Book has gone, it has supernaturally changed lives, showing itself to be inspired by God Himself to transform people for all eternity.
- Principles for reading the Bible:
    1. **The Principle of History:** God has revealed biblical truth in specific historical and cultural contexts. So, as we read the text, we should ask two important questions:
      - What are the timeless truths (which never change over time) God reveals in this text?
      - Are there any temporary applications (which can change over time) of those truths in this text?
    2. **The Principle of Harmony:** We interpret each Scripture in light of all Scripture. No part of the Bible stands alone; it all fits together in a unified whole.
  - Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16. Try to make two lists, responding to the two principles listed above as you read through this passage. List what might be timeless truths and what might be temporary applications. Discuss with your group. Keep these lists and we will work further through this passage in next week's sermon.
3. As you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what one principle or insight was particularly helpful, distinctive, or challenging to you? What principle or insight was difficult to grasp?
  4. What is one thing from this sermon that you hope we talk about as a group?

## LOOK FORWARD

*Consider the implications of the passage for our lives, our group/church and our mission.*

1. For our lives:
  - For those of you who have read from, or even studied, the Bible—
    1. What level of authority does the Bible have over your life? What gives it that authority?
    2. In what ways might you already have been reshaped and transformed by your reading or study of the Bible? Take time to praise God for that.
    3. When you encounter Biblical passages that seem unclear, hard to understand, or even offensive or controversial, what do you do to gain more clarity about the meaning of that text? How might applying the Principle of History and Principle of Harmony help your effort?
  - Think of a time when your understanding of, or a personal conviction about, Jesus and the Scriptures was challenged or opposed by another individual or group. How did you instinctively respond to this opposition (i.e., what did you think, feel, and/or do)? Why did you respond as you did?



- Do you trust this Bible with your life? Do you trust the Author of the Bible with your life? Do you have a growing impulse to read His word? If your impulse to read the Word of God has ebbed and flowed over time, what has contributed to these fluctuations (i.e., what stokes your appetite for His word, and what diminishes or deadens it)?
2. For our mission:
- For all who have trusted the Lord with your life, the Word encourages us to—
    1. Meditate on the Bible like your life depends on it...because it does.
    2. Share the Bible with others like their lives depend on it...because they do.

In what ways might you long to be grown in each of the above areas? As a group, take time to pray together toward that end.