

For Your Family

Read 1 Corinthians 11:2 with your family:

Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.

The “traditions” Paul is referring to are the original teachings that brought the Christians in Corinth to Christ. These teachings are the guide, or the authority, for the church and believers must obey them. Our passage this week goes on to discuss authority within the family and within the church. One of the hardest things for parents to teach, and one of the hardest things for children to understand, is obedience to those in authority. Respect for authority is so important because *everyone* is under some kind of authority.

Help your children list various authorities in our lives that we must obey. (Parents, police, teachers, judges, employers, etc).

Read Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Where does the authority in our families and in our world come from?

Read Romans 13:2

Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

If you disobey those who have legitimate authority over you, whom do you disobey as well?

Read Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

These verses are called a doxology. Jude ends his short letter with this praise to Jesus. From this verse, describe what kind of authority Jesus has (*majestic, powerful, forever*).

How can knowing the teachings in these verses help you obey those who have authority over you?

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Being Informed:
Family Life Wednesdays–7-8:30 PM

Last Week: Paul closed out his instructions to the Corinthian Christians concerning eating meat sacrificed to idols. He moved from eating idol meat in the pagan temples, which he had strictly prohibited, to eating idol meat in private homes, which he allowed under certain circumstances. Paul offered several principles which not only apply to this specific situation, but which can be applied to many situations: seek the good of others, focus on those things which are helpful and which build up others. Seek to bring glory to God in everything you do. Seek to promote the gospel in all situations. Seek to imitate others, as they imitate Christ.

How to Behave in Worship
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

This Week: Paul begins a new section in his letter, addressing three issues concerning their worship gatherings: 1. Head coverings in worship (11:2-16), 2. Divisions at the Lord’s Table (11:17-34), 3. Spiritual gifts at worship (12-14). In this first section, Paul addresses whether it is appropriate for women (probably wives) to participate in the worship service with their heads uncovered. He argues from creation and from culture that doing so would bring shame to their husbands. Paul desires that the proper relationship between husbands and wives be reflected in the worship service.

Guardrails: This is a difficult passage to interpret. We should approach it very carefully and very humbly. Keep in mind the context; Paul is addressing a new church that numbered many people who had come out of pagan worship. They were transitioning from pagan worship to a new freedom in Christ. The wives, especially, were learning how to worship in freedom, honor their husbands, and give glory to God, all at the same time.

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Observing

1. Paul starts with a commendation for the Corinthians.

What is it? (vs. 2)

In this case, what does the word 'tradition' mean?

2. This is a very difficult passage to interpret. Does 'head' mean 'authority' or 'source'? Is Paul talking about men and women or husbands and wives? What kind of head coverings are we talking about? Which part of this is cultural, pertaining just to Corinth, and which is universal, pertaining to all cultures? There are other difficulties as well. Given all this, what is it that the Corinthians were doing wrong?

3. Go through the passage and list the theological arguments.

Now list the cultural arguments.

How does this affect your understanding of this passage?

Connecting the Dots

1. It seems that part of the problem in Corinth was people learning to deal with the freedom that they found in Christ. Let's review again what Paul has said in this area:

1 Corinthians 6:12

1 Corinthians 10:23

Read Galatians 5:13-15

What does this add to our understanding?

How would you apply it to the situation in Corinth?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and 10:32-33.

Compare with 11:2.

Is there a tension between 'being all things to all people' and 'maintaining the traditions' delivered to the saints?

How can we consistently do both?

3. No matter how we understand the details of this passage, it is clear that we are to bring glory to God in everything we do. 2

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31

Compare Philippians 3:17

How important was this for Paul?

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

Read Jude 24-25

Summarize what you learn from these passages about bringing glory to God.

Continuing the Journey

1. How well do you know the 'traditions' of the Apostles?

What are you doing to keep up on what is taught in the New Testament?

How does your knowledge of the tradition inform your understanding and living out of Christian freedom?

2. How well do you walk the line between 'maintaining the tradition' and being 'all things to all people in order to save some'?

3. How are you doing in your everyday life to honor God in everything you do? What could you add to your life that would add glory to God?

Next Steps:

- I will strive to follow God's Word, even when the teaching is difficult.
- I will live a life that brings honor to God and respects his creative design.
- When I come to worship, I will bring my very best, a heart that is fully submitted to Him.

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 11:2—Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.