

Share

1 Corinthians 11:2-34

by Don Falkos

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The Problem:

During worship women were expressing their freedom in Christ by removing their veils to pray or speak.

Paul's Response:

The first woman came from the side of the man. But every man since has come from a woman. Men and women share a mutual interdependence as God's image in the world and are equal in God's sight. But you live in Corinth, a center of decadence. If women in your assembly remove their veils during worship, outsiders may see them as no different from the prostitutes who constantly walk about the city unveiled. To avoid unfortunate misunderstandings it's probably best to follow cultural norms for dress, hairstyle, and so on.

The Problem:

Worship was centered on the Love Feast, a communal meal. But the wealthy were bringing elaborate meals for themselves; some were even getting drunk. Meanwhile, the poor had little or nothing to eat.

The Love Feast included the Lord's Supper. Some were not treating this acknowledgement of Christ's death with proper respect.

Paul's Response:

The Love Feast is supposed to be a shared meal, uniting you as one. So share! Otherwise you bring shame on the whole community.

As for the Lord's Supper, remember: On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is given for you." In the same way, he took wine, saying, "This is my blood, which ratifies the covenant with God."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again. Approach this with deep self-examination.