

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, July 7, 2024

1. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-40
2. In v.27 Paul says, "If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at the most three." He then insists that someone be able to interpret. Likewise, in v.29 he says, "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said." And then in v.31 he makes it clear that they are to speak one by one. Why does Paul insist on these regulations?
3. Paul also says that when a prophet (or preacher) speaks, the others are to weigh what is said. What does this mean? How is the congregation to go about weighing the prophet/preacher's words?
4. What is the regulative principle of worship?
5. Paul's final regulation for public worship is that the women should remain silent (v.34). What does this refer to? What are the implications of this statement as far as what Paul says women can and can't do in the church and the world?
6. Why does Paul appeal to God's own identity as being a God of peace, not confusion (v.33) in seeking to establish orderly public worship?
7. In v.36 Paul rebukes the Corinthians for thinking they are "spiritual" (when clearly they're not) for doing things their own way rather than doing what all the other churches do. According to v.37-38, what does Paul point to as being a sign of true spirituality? What does this say about apostolic authority?
8. In summary, why is orderly public worship so important?
9. Going back to the beginning of ch.12 Paul has been speaking about spiritual things (12:1 – the word "gifts" isn't in the Greek text, but it's "spiritual things" or "spiritual matters"). In reflecting on what we've seen throughout ch.12-14, what does it mean to be "spiritual"? Be thorough.
10. Pray

Reading of Law: Matthew 7:12

"Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Prayer of Confession:

Our gracious God and Father, we come before You in Jesus' name confessing our sin to you. You are a God of love who does good to all, making your sun to rise on the evil and the good and sending rain on the just and on the unjust. As those created in your image and likeness You likewise command us to do good to all and require that we treat others in the same way we wish others would treat us. But we in our sinfulness fail to do this, often treating others in ways that we do not wish to be treated, treating them harshly, impatiently, and insensitively. We do not treat others with the dignity with which we wish to be treated, but we look down on others and make unrighteous judgments about them in our hearts. We are not careful with how we speak to others, and we do not take the time to listen to others. We do not consider the struggles others may be going through even though we are deeply hurt when people ignore the struggles we are going through. Father, in all of this we confess we have a double standard, a standard for how we want to be treated, and a standard for how we treat others. Please forgive us. And please look upon Christ on our behalf as He alone is our righteousness and the One who enables us to stand spotless and blameless in Your most holy presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Revelation 1:4-5

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

WLC: 135

Q. 135. What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?

A. The duties required in the sixth commandment are, all careful studies, and lawful endeavors to preserve the life of ourselves and others by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any; by just defense thereof against violence, patient bearing of the hand of God, quietness of mind, cheerfulness of spirit; a sober use of food, drink, physic, sleep, labor, and recreation; by charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable, mild, and courteous speeches and behavior: forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil; comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent.

Eph. 5:28-29; 1 Kings 18:4; Jer. 26:15-16; Acts 23:12, 16-17, 21, 27; Eph. 4:26-27; 2 Sam. 2:22; Deut. 22:8; Matt. 4:6-7; Prov. 1:10-11, 15-16; 1 Sam. 24:12; 1 Sam. 26:9-11; Gen. 37:21-22; Ps. 82:4; Prov. 24:11-12; 1 Sam. 14:45; Jas. 5:7-11; Heb. 12:9; 1 Thess. 4:11; 1 Pet. 3:3-4; Ps. 37:8-11; Prov. 17:22; Prov. 25:16, 27; 1 Tim. 5:23; Isa. 38:21; Ps. 127:2; Ecc. 5:12; 2 Thess. 3:10, 12; Prov. 16:26; Ecc. 3:4, 11; 1 Sam. 19:4-5; 1 Sam. 22:13-14; Rom. 13:10; Luke 10:33-34; Col. 3:12-13; Jas. 3:17; 1 Pet. 3:8-11; Prov. 15:1; Judg. 8:1-3; Matt. 5:24; Eph. 4:2, 32; Rom. 12:17, 20-21; 1 Thess. 5:14; Job 31:19-20; Matt. 25:35-36; Prov. 31:8-9.

OT Reading: Genesis 3:1-19

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You¹ shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."