

Union Bethel AME Church (dial-in and Facebook™ Live)  
Bible Study Dial-in Number: (218) 339-7800 Access Code: 141997#  
Tuesday, November 11, 2019

### **1 Corinthians 14:26-40 – 15:1-11**

To read Paul's epistles without understanding the cultural norms is incorrect. Hebrew culture did not value the role of women beyond the home and family. While a few specific women have influenced Hebrew culture in the Bible (daughters of Zelophehad, Deborah, Hannah, Ruth, Esther, and Rahab), there were rules that women were required to follow. In general, women did not own property, did not speak in the temple, and were expected to be submissive and servile to husbands. To study Paul, one must recognize the impact of traditional Hebrew and Roman culture. Remember, Paul wrote of slaves obeying masters. Those verses were used to keep African American slaves in bondage. Use caution when taking Paul's writings and placing God's order on those words.

### **1 Corinthians 14:26-33, 37-40**

We understand God desires peace and not chaos. So when multiple prophetic words are spoken, the church should receive the word in an orderly manner. No one should speak over anyone else. All should be heard and discernment used to understand what God is saying through the prophets.

**What is the problem with chaotic environments?**

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### **1 Corinthians 14:34-36**

In this set of scripture verses, Paul is restating Hebrew law. Women were not allowed positions of authority. Women were looked down upon and considered greedy and lazy in early Hebrew literature. Some of those negative views of women were also evident in early Christian writings.

**What is the problem with taking a negative cultural perspective and using the Bible to support those bad images?**

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## **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

This section of Paul's letter to the church again shows some bias on the part of Paul. In the gospels Jesus first appears to the women coming to the grave to anoint his body. He does not first appear to Peter (Cephas). Paul's account of the resurrection of Jesus is not consistent with the gospels. We cannot know why, but we can acknowledge that Paul left out information when he talked about the resurrection. Paul does state that Jesus showed himself resurrected to more than 500 brothers and sisters.

**Why might it be important the Paul list Peter as the first to see Jesus alive?**

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## **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

Our Christian faith is based on a firm belief in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. If we do not believe in a resurrected Jesus, then Paul questions what we believe. Our hope is in a resurrected Jesus.

What do we believe about Jesus?

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## **1 Corinthians 15:20-29, 30-34**

We died (were separated from God) through Adam. We live (relationship with God restored) through Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus was raised from the dead first. When Christ Jesus returns, then those who were followers of Christ in life will be raised from the dead. Each of us believes and is baptized into Christ on our own. We die a little each day and must maintain a sober mind. We must be careful of the company we keep. Those around us can lead us astray as with the case of baptism for the dead in verse 29.

So what does verse 29 mean?

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