

27. The politically incorrect Bible

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In a way, it is a good thing for people to realize that all people are equal under the law. Whether they are blacks, hispanics, whites, American Indians, or orientals or men or women, they have equal rights in America, supposedly. Nowadays you have to be extremely careful with what you say in your workplaces or public gatherings. If you don't follow this guideline, you will be stamped as a politically incorrect person. Nevertheless, the liberals use this "political correctness" issue as their advantage to oppress Christians, conservatives, and morally upstanding people.

Due to unwanted sexual advances by perverted males, a new social movement started in 2017 – a.k.a., "#Me Too" movement through Twitter. I don't have a problem with the original concept which is for sexually victimized women speaking out against the male perpetrators or rapists publicly. But like many other social movements, it started to take a wrong turn. It became an accepted platform to form a lynching mob, self-appointed prosecutors, self-appointed jury, self-appointed judges, and self-appointed executioners without proper due process of law. All they need is a woman's Twitter accusation against a man that gets many "Likes" and "Positive comments." Then, the accused man's career and life are pretty much over whether he is truly guilty or not. One woman said to a TV reporter during the judge Kavanaugh's hearing, "Since these women came forward against him, the senators must believe that he is guilty." How completely absurd!

In God's eyes, all people are absolutely equal. God is color blind to see the skin color difference, God is not impressed with man's stupid macho attitude or woman's stuck-up attitude.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Even though the ground at the foot of the Cross is leveled, God gives different responsibility to men and women. It means that God puts someone in charge of the situation to take a responsibility. The order of God in responsibility is women under the authority of men, so that men have more responsibilities and accountabilities with God. I know that it is politically incorrect. However, God really doesn't care about being politically correct, nor do I care.

In chapter 14 of the Book of 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul teaches us that everything must be done in order, because our God is not the God of confusion, but order. We are going to read the portion of the Scripture that would cause the 21st century biblically ignorant readers condemn it because of their own biblical ignorance and taking the Scripture out of context.

In the next 30 minutes or so, I want all of you to pay attention to what the Lord speaks to you through this portion of the Word of God that has the absolute truth and the final authority.

A. THE SILENCE-SUBJECTION PRINCIPLE

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

The concern of 1 Corinthians 14 is the orderly assembly of the congregation. This is not about putting women down or treating them as if they are the second class Christians, rather the apostle Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is teaching us the proper order in the church services as he already taught us about the proper usages of God's spiritual gifts – mainly speaking in tongues and prophecies.

The best way to understand and interpret the Bible is using this great and inerrant Book – the Bible. Many great theologians can write commentaries with insights from the Holy Spirit. However, no one, I mean no one can write it better than the Holy Spirit Himself who is the Author of the Bible.

So when you see the verse you have a hard time understanding, instead of grabbing the first commentary book you can find, try this method: Use the concordance from the back of the Bible or cross reference verses that you can find in the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge or the margin of your Bible. Use those cross reference verses to understand those hard-to-understand verses while you keep everything in context. It will help you to understand it easier. This morning's study is a case in point.

The word "speak" in v34 is "laleo" in Greek. It is the most familiar Greek word for speaking, used in this chapter 24 times, often with reference to common, everyday talk.

Although we are created equal, women have been placed in subjection to men according to the Bible we study. Therefore, they have no right to assume a role of authority – whether it's a message of teaching from behind the pulpit or disturbing comments from the pew.

1 Timothy 2:11-12 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

At first glance, this seems to be a blanket command that women are never allowed to speak at all in the church. However, earlier in this same epistle 11:5, Paul mentions situations where women are allowed to pray and prophesy in the assembled congregation. Therefore, 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 must not be an absolute command for women to remain silent at all times in all services. The prohibition must be limited in some way by the context.

In the ancient world, just as in some modern cultures, women and men sat in different groups at church. Among the Christians in Corinth, there seems to have been the problem of women chattering or disrupting the services with questions, especially the ancient Greek women who tended to be more outgoing than other races. Paul is saying, "Don't disrupt the services. Ask your questions at home."

In the Jewish synagogues, men and women also sat apart. But if a woman chattered or called out to her husband sitting far off, she would be dealt with severely. The Corinthian church may have adopted the same kind of seating arrangement, but with many women from Gentile backgrounds, they did not know how to conduct themselves at a church service. Paul is teaching them how.

Do you know of any churches of which leadership is dominated by women? I often see pastor's wife also has a title of "pastor", especially in the charismatic denomination church. Clearly, churches with female leadership cut across the grain of Scripture – a sure sign that they are not taking the principles of Scripture to heart. If

they are compromising this, what is the next portion of the Scripture they are going to compromise? As I told you this before, the Word of God is not a buffet table that you can pick and choose as you please. Either you take the whole thing into your heart or you don't.

B. THE SELF-EXAMINATION PRINCIPLE

1 Corinthians 14:36-40 Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached? 37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

The Corinthian believers saw themselves as pacesetters, originators of truth, the first to receive God's instructions, because they had many spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit. In their spiritual immaturity, they considered themselves special and more spiritual instead of being grateful to the Lord for His blessings. Paul responded to their elitist spirit with a sarcastic bite.

What audacity the Corinthians had to assume that it all started in Corinth! Yet these self-inflated prideful and self-deceived believers were not even following God's instructions properly. As the apostle pointed out to them, if they ignored the fact that his teaching was from the Lord, in turn, they would be ignored.

Paul is considering that perhaps some of the Corinthian Christians might want to debate with him on these matters. He will have none of it. The word of God did not come from the Corinthian Christians; it came to them from Paul. They need to sit and listen and be teachable instead of arguing with the apostle Paul.

Some people think that if they are really spiritual, they don't have to obey God's word on the matters that they need to remain humble. In their own minds, they are so spiritual; the rules don't apply to them. But if we are really spiritual, we will stick to the Word of God, and not go "beyond" it and stay humble.

There is nothing more dangerous than spiritual pride. It can come into the heart of a brand new Christian as well as a seasoned faithful believer. As long as we have this sinful body, pride is right there within our hearts to replace the humble adoration of our God with its sinful presence with any type of lame excuses.

A competing ego in Christianity is not only a self-made trap, but also it becomes poison for oneself as well as those who are around that person. It has no place in ministry. Easy to say it, but extremely difficult to control.

C. THE SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Paul in his excellence sums up the entire 14th chapter of this Book in these 2 verses.

When you come together as a church, it is far better to be a blessing to someone else; therefore, prophecy is much more useful than tongues. Though Paul will carefully regulate, and even discourage the use of tongues in the church, he would not forbid it. At the same time, he will greatly encourage its use in one's personal devotions.

When the gifts of the Spirit are given an unscriptural focus, it discredits the true work of the Holy Spirit, and often leads the other people to deny the gifts because they see unbiblical lack of moderation and balance.

A church worship service ought to be a biblical, meaningful, and humbling experience. It should be encouraging and have a spontaneity that the Holy Spirit is delighted to prompt. All of this, without a trace of confusion.

Some church services throw honest and dignity right out the window for the sake of temporary emotional hypes that fan their ego. They give little thought to the proper, biblical way of worshiping and base the right and wrong of it all on their own experience. Just because they feel that since many people speak in tongues and numerous prophecies without the Biblical guidelines, somehow they think that the Holy Spirit is moving within them. Thus they choose to believe that they are more spiritual than those who follow what the Scripture says.

There must be liberty in our worship gathering, but there must be no disorder. The God of peace must be worshiped in peace, order, truth, and in Spirit.

This spiritual gift is an issue that has greatly divided the body of Christ theologically, spiritually, and physically. There are some who think those who believe all the gifts are for today are deceived by the devil. There are others who think those who believe some of the gifts are no longer given are unspiritual and dead in their spiritual walk with God.

Often, Calvary Chapels are respected for their Biblical balance when it comes to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their place in church life. Calvary Chapels have sometimes been rightly seen as "too Pentecostal for the Baptists and too Baptist for the Pentecostals"; so we have been called "Pentebaptist" or "Bapticostal."

We must understand the issue. Virtually no Christian believes all the gifts have ceased in the church today. All Christians believe the gifts of teaching and administration are given and needed in the church today. It is the gifts that have a miraculous nature which are in dispute.

The source of power behind all spiritual gifts is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His power to overcome sin and death is at work in every believer, granting us access to God and enabling us to serve Him effectively. And the switch that activates that power in our lives is God's grace. And the next chapter of this Book happens to be the topic of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I tell ya, the apostle Paul is a terrific writer. But then again, he was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

D. APPLICATION

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