



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Biblical, Honor Code

Tuesday, 6 May 2014

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CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

monthly (interim) schedule

*** 1st Tuesday of the month ***

TUESDAY, 6 MAY @ 12 NOON in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Studies are held the *first* Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon. The monthly Bible study is nonpartisan and nondenominational. We are currently studying First Corinthians, chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here *solely* to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as evidence of my desire to serve you.

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Study

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Tuesday, 6 May 2014

First Corinthians 11 – “A Biblical, Honor Code”

First Corinthians 11 addresses how to honor Christ and others, especially in worship. Whenever believers in Jesus Christ assemble together, it can be a time for worship by caring for one another, and intensifying the unity of our fellowship in the Lord God.

Many people throughout the world “push aside” others in their daily lives. Competition exists in business, politics, sports, and even in one’s home life. When many have the opportunity to be first, they will seize that position without any regard for others.

First Corinthians 11 addresses an awful situation that occurred in Christian worship. Some were pushing others to the side so they could “eat the Lord’s Supper.” Elbowing their way to be “first” to partake of the bread and wine, these individuals were essentially saying to others, “Move, you are in my way.” Consequently, one was “hungry” and another was “drunk” (vv. 18-22).

Scripture instructs God’s people to have a mutual focus upon others rather than the narrow focus of our own self-interests that is so prevalent today. A general proverb in English states, “It is better to be alone, than in bad company.” In the first book of the popular series by George R. R. Martin, one of the characters remarks, “Give me honorable enemies rather than ambitious ones, and I’ll sleep more easily by night” (*A Song of Ice and Fire*, 5 vols. [1996-2011; reprint, New York: Random House, 2013] 1:69).

Small sacrifices should be made willingly for the good of all and the sake of abiding together. Scripture helps us to be certain that we proclaim respect for others, and thus grant us our own self-respect and self-esteem. The fact is that one cannot honor God, and not have care and concern for others who constitute the body of Christ. Christians ought to be known as people of good quality, and the revelation of God’s Word assists us to accomplish all things “properly and in an orderly manner” (1 Cor 14:40).

HONOR AND DIVINE ORDER

(1 Cor 11:1-16) The believer in Jesus Christ must be determined not to seek his/her own advantage (10:33) “but the *profit* of the many.” Scripture provides us with many examples of those we can imitate, as they strove to manifest Christlikeness (11:1; cf. Phil 4:9; 2 Thess 3:9; Heb 13:9). The first learning experience of all humanity is to imitate one’s parents and sibling(s), and this is how we learn our language, basic life functions, and many other life skills. As a young child attains maturity, and even though he/she may learn multitudinously, it is noteworthy to ponder how much is “caught, rather than taught.” Regardless of age, imitation is a dominant means of teaching.

... THE WORD OF GOD EQUIPS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED TO SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP...

The encouragement to “be imitators of me” necessitates an exemplary lifestyle on your behalf. The method of imitation requires much, and the Word of God equips those who have been called to spiritual leadership (Eph 4:11-12; cf. 1 Tim 4:12; Tit 2:7). Of course, we must always “practice what we preach;” whereas the task is tremendous, it is necessary for such a calling (and crucial to recall).

No one is perfect, yet such a truth is not an excuse as if we do not need to be concerned regarding our lifestyle. The qualification “as I also am of Christ” makes all the difference (1 Cor 11:1). The Apostle Paul confessed, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*” (1 Tim 1:15). We do not imitate the failures and faults of each other (which we all have), and thus distinguish between those actions and attitudes that are in agreement with the Lord Jesus’ will and his sinless lifestyle, and those in which we may fail to exhibit. Ultimately, this means that believers imitate what we learn to be in agreement with “what is written” (1 Cor 4:6).

Why should one seek to imitate someone like the Apostle Paul or another Christian, as opposed to simply imitating Christ? We all imitate someone (even without knowing), thus you cannot avoid the practice. Scripture is exhorting us to make a deliberate choice regarding who we imitate, in addition to what (specifically) in that person’s life is Christlike and thus worthy to imitate. One may assume that learning what is truthful also demands applying and integrating such truth into one’s life (as opposed to what is abstract, by principle).



Enhancing Trust

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Study

1st Tuesdays (*monthly*) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP

(Bible Study Luncheon is sponsored by Centerpoint Community Church, Springfield)

Capitol Commission Georgia

A Biblical, Honor Code

Following many words of correction (chs. 1—10), one can imagine a sense of relief associated with the words of commendation: “Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you” (11:2) The majority of believers were heeding the official, sacred transmission of “received” practices (cf. 11:23). Nevertheless, “a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough” (5:6), thus all will benefit from the positive word that would help them achieve the corrections that follow (vv. 3-34).

... “A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENS THE WHOLE LUMP OF DOUGH”
... THUS ALL WILL BENEFIT FROM THE POSITIVE WORD....

Verses 3-16 address the doctrine of authority in marriage. (*The word “doctrine” refers to a theological formulation summarizing the teaching of Scripture regarding a specific subject.*) The head covering was a meaningful symbol in the ancient world, and the early church adopted the custom already prevalent in society and then gave a distinctively Christian expression to the tradition. The practice expressed submission (not humiliation), thus some type of corresponding symbol would be required today, albeit not necessarily a head covering.

SUBMISSION AND THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD

Scripture is unequivocal in declaring there is one God. The Bible also ascribes deity to three distinct personalities: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The only concept that is faithful to all the biblical evidence is the doctrine known as the tri-unity (Trinity) of God. There is one God, yet in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternally equal persons, who are the same in substance but distinct in subsistence.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the same in substance; however, the relations between them are not equal. The Father is different from the Son because he is not begotten from the Son. The Son is different from the Father because he is begotten of the Father, and the Son is different from the Holy Spirit because He is the only begotten son of the Father. The Holy Spirit is not the son of the Father; therefore, the Son has a relationship to the Father that the Holy Spirit does not.

The point in clarifying the doctrine of the Trinity is that there is a hierarchy of authority. Neither the Father nor the Son proceeds from the Holy Spirit; it is evident that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are different not in quality but relation. The distinction between the members of the Trinity is their personal mode of existence. The Father is not begotten, the Son is begotten, and the Holy Spirit proceeds but is not begotten.

Even within the tri-unity of god, there is a functional submission. All members of the Trinity are ontologically equal with each other, thus the submission is entirely functional. (*Ontology is the study of being.*) Consequently, we learn that there is a hierarchy of authority from God the Father. He is the Head of Christ; Christ is the Head of the man, and the man is the head of the woman. The argument is based upon

the order of creation (vv. 8-9), yet neither is independent of the other, and both men and women are dependent upon God.

HONOR AND DIVINE ADMONISHING

(*1 Cor 11:17-34*) While the preceding section contained words of praise for the church’s fidelity to basic doctrine (v. 2), the same cannot be expressed concerning the public worship gatherings (v. 17). We cannot merely rely upon past successes without concern for the present. What kind of things would yield displeasure following words of praise? God’s people were polarized when they gathered (vv. 18-22), and neglected the remembrance and proclamation of Christ’s saving work during their meetings (vv. 23-34).

1 John 2:19 – They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

Factions are not always negative because God can make it evident who is to be approved and who is not (v. 19; cf. 1 John 2:19). Many of the historical creeds of the church were written to define the Christian faith by systematizing biblical teachings, and thus defend the truth against those who were not approved. However, when divisions are the result of dissipation and selfishness it must be confused as sin.

Not only did sin cause many to be “weak and sick, and a number sleep” (dead) – because God judged them for their sinful behavior – but also a lack of repentance will culminate in future abuse and judgment (vv. 30-32). Verse 31 reveals a truism by which God interacts with humanity that is appropriate to many situations in which significant problems have developed as a lack of repentance: “But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.” We must always examine our motivations in comparison to Scripture (cf. 4:5).

WE CANNOT MERELY RELY UPON PAST SUCCESSES WITHOUT CONCERN FOR THE PRESENT.

Self-discipline (as described in ch. 9) makes discipline by God unnecessary (cf. 11:32). God’s Word offers blessing for our lives, and wisdom is to heed its counsel. First Corinthians 11 provides tremendous guidance regarding how to please God, honor Christ, respect the unity of the church, and proclaim the gospel of grace.

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact us by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state ministers teach ongoing verse-by-verse Bible studies for the entire Capitol community, and also meet personally with many government leaders (and their staff) to proclaim God’s grace in salvation, to encourage our leaders, pray with them, and provide biblical counsel.

Capitol Commission is a charitable and religious nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Capitol Commission is supported by the generous gifts of businesses, churches, and individuals. Capitol Commission is not state-funded; rather, those with a heart for the Capitol community fund it. *Please join us in this ministry!*

**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION (INTERIM) BIBLE STUDY:
TUESDAY, 3 JUNE @ 12 NOON in 123 CAP
(always the 1st Tuesday of each month, during interim)**

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:

