

LESSON 8

ENTERING HIS GATES

1 CORINTHIANS 11:2–34



1 If you went to church as a child, jot down several adjectives that describe what you remember worship services being like.

2 Describe the ideal worship service today. What should be a part of every good worship service?



Read 1 Corinthians 11:2–34 and the following notes:

- ☐ 11:2–16 ☐ 11:3 ☐ 11:9–11 ☐ 11:14, 15 ☐ 11:21, 22 ☐ 11:27ff
☐ 11:27–34

3 How was the issue concerning head coverings affecting the Corinthians' worship (11:2–16)?

4 Describe the problems Paul addressed regarding the Lord's Supper. Why was this such a concern to him (11:17-34)?

5 What do the issues of male/female relationships in worship and proper attitude toward the Lord's Supper have in common?



The Corinthians brought their problems to worship with them. Some of these problems, such as the matter of head coverings, involved disagreement over how they were being perceived by outsiders. Other problems, such as their abuse of the Lord's Supper, stemmed from broken relationships, pride, and self-centeredness. Paul wanted them to know that the attitudes they brought to worship and the way they acted during worship had great importance. In worship we come into God's presence and declare that we are his people, united together in faith. We can't do that if we are divided, fighting, or jockeying for the best seats. We must come into God's presence focused on him and unified as a group. We must worship with respect toward one another and toward God. Otherwise, we miss the purpose of coming together in the first place.

6 What conflicts and problems prevent churches from worshiping well?

7 How would you evaluate a worship service at your church?



8 What preoccupations sometimes hinder you from coming to worship services properly prepared?

9 What could you do to eliminate those hindrances?

10 How might you improve the quality of your church's worship services?

11 How can you prepare yourself to receive the Lord's Supper?



12 What are one or two things you can do on Saturday nights or Sunday mornings to prepare for worship?

13 What is one thing you can do to enhance the worship experience of your family or of those around you?

A What does your church believe about the role of women in the church today? What changes would enable all people to participate in the life of the church?

B The Corinthians had to be careful about head coverings because of what such coverings meant to some people in their culture. What cultural practices should Christians be careful about today because of what they mean to others?

C Some people were “weak and sick,” and some had “even died” because they abused the Lord’s Supper (11:30). What does it mean to partake of the Lord’s Supper unworthily?

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