

AWML Week 8
I Corinthians 14

SLIDE 1:

Zoom out at this point and get a panoramic view of Chapters 11-14

Bible was not divided into chapters and verses until 1227 AD, by Cardinal Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Our tendency is to divide these chapters into discreet categories as we read them, such as:

- 11a: head coverings
- 11b: communion
- 12a: spiritual gifts and graces
- 12b: Unity of the body of Christ
- 13 LOVE
- 14a: Tongues
- 14b: women in worship

Good for reference, but not necessarily for understanding.

SLIDE 2:

Taken as a whole, these chapters paint a picture of:

- The relationship of the early church to each other (Who you are to each other)
- The relationship of the church to the culture at large (Who you are to the world)
- The purpose of the early church gatherings (How your faith is expressed in a corporate setting)

In order to see how these three aspects of early church life fit together to form a picture, we need to step even further back and view the Corinthian Church as it was in the bigger picture of the world of the Roman Empire.

SLIDE 3: Christian Church in the Roman Empire

- At first perceived as a mystical cult; a faction of the Jewish religion
- Very small in number, maybe 6000 world wide
- Not welcome in Jewish Synagogues, although meetings were probably modeled after those in the synagogues.
- Rejected the pagan practices of worship
- Viewed as non-threatening, but with suspicion by the Roman government
- Very strong appeal to women
 - Widows were provided for by giving
 - Women were very empowered in service relative to the other institutions of the day.

- Primarily comprised of the poor and outcasts in society.
- Known by their care for the poor and sick.

All of these circumstances left them vulnerable, as a group, in very specific ways.

SLIDE 4:

Who you are to EACH OTHER:

- Essential (Chapter 12:12-31)
- Edifying (Chapter 12:1-11, and 14:1-17)
- Inclusive toward both insiders and outsiders (Chapter 11:17-34; 12:12-31, and 14:18-25)
- Honoring (Chapters 11:1-16 and 14:26-40)

SLIDE 5:

Who you are to the WORLD (Those who don't believe):

- Examples of LOVE: Chapter 13
- Examples of PROPRIETY : Chapters 11:1-16, Chapter 11:17-34 and 14:26-40
- Examples of divine POWER: Chapters 14:11-25
- Examples of UNITY: Chapter 12 (all)

SLIDE 6:

How your faith is expressed TOGETHER:

- It is expected and normal that the church GATHERS
- It is expected and normal that the church GROWS
- It is expected and normal to EXPERIENCE God and to LEARN about God
- It is expected and normal to OPERATE the gifts of the Spirit
- It is expected and normal to be ORDERLY and in UNITY

SLIDE 7:

The driving principles of chapters 11-14 are EDIFICATION, UNITY, and ORDER.