

**Week beginning 22/3/21**

*Prepared by Ken Sykes*

**1 Corinthians Chapter 11:2ff** - Orderly Church Life:worship

2-11 For man/woman read husband/wife. v4 Pagan priests covered their heads to distinguish themselves – for Christians attention should be on Jesus his 'Head' (use of robes?).

v5 Roman law prescribed shaving a woman's head for adultery. v6 'uncovered head' implies refusal to accept her marriage.

v14 a long haired man = a pagan god (ref. ancient statues). NB Leadership roles for women OK!

Vv17-19 Don't behave in a secular way in a Christian church meeting -'church' was the word used for a city political gathering.

20ff The agape meal must demonstrate Jesus' love i.e. others always come before 'me', and therefore 'have nots' shouldn't be humiliated.

It can only truly be The Lord's Supper if we are all together one body.

**Chapter 12** – Orderly Church Life:ministry Note:we only have Paul's bit of the conversation.

Meetings should reflect the character of One God, One Spirit, One body. Pagans used their god's names to put a curse on the opposition. Spiritual gifts are given to bless others. Different gifts are from the One source.

We are dependent on each other's gifts, we each need each other, we are all equal in poverty without His spiritual riches, therefore no place for superiority. But seek the gifts most helpful in building up the body.

**Chapter 13** – Love.

i.e. Selfgiving, agape love, as in Chap 11. Whatever it costs, 'I' live/die for you, I have been crucified. That is the committed relationship spoken of. That is what discipleship is.

All will become clear, in the future, but for now, live it.

**Chapter 14** -

Prophecy is not necessarily prediction, it is speaking God's words. (As Jesus Jn 8:26, 12:49; 14:10 etc) This is the task for all of us, and particularly the responsibility of those in the pulpit.

Tongues are spoken Godwards – interpretation is for the church's benefit, and not necessarily direct translation. Both are gifts and should be sought after not for personal reasons but for the church's blessing.

Lack of accurate teaching then and now has and is the cause of much misunderstanding.

**Chapter 15** - The Resurrection

What an exciting, life changing chapter. Spend much time meditating on it.

This is not about the Resurrection of Jesus, the evidence was clear then and is now for those who look into it (see 'Who moved the Stone' and other such books), but that our physical bodies will also be resurrected – as against the pagan view that only souls were immortal.

And transformed! So be ready – by the way you live now v 58.