

DECENTLY AND IN ORDER

A LESSON ON KEEPING ORDER IN THE CHURCH

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

~ 1 Corinthians 14:40

1. What's wrong with Organized Religion?

- a. Destroying sacred cows is more acceptable in a profane culture.
- b. People boast that their independent church is *"not part of organized religion."*
- c. The opposite of organized religion is disorganized religion, which would be wrong.
- d. Too many rules impede progress, but with no rules there is not proper order
- e. Does Paul have a liturgy? No. Does he set things in order? Yes. 1 Cor 11:34, 14:40

2. The Order of a Church

- a. What does the church do when it comes together? – 1 Tim 3:15, 4:6, 4:13, 5:17
- b. Scripture is good for doctrine, reproof, producing good works – 2 Tim 3:16-17
- c. A properly functioning church has three functions - Col 1:9-10
 - i. Edifying function ~ Teaching, preaching, admonishing, singing, charging
 - ii. Sanctifying function ~ Reproving, correcting, rebuking, warning, exhorting
 - iii. Serving (ministry) function ~ Greeting, eating, speaking, praying, loving, comforting, honoring, giving, weeping/rejoicing, requires charity (mature faith)
- d. Each function of Christ's church should effect you, other members, and the world

3. Disorder in the Church

- a. Disorder is a malfunction of the local assembly: a failure of leadership or obedience
- b. Who has the charge to keep order? Elders (bishops/ deacons) – 1 Cor 2:13
- c. How does ruling your house relate to keeping order in the church? - 1 Tim 3:4-6
 - i. It requires bringing people into subjection - 1 Th 2:7,11, Eph 5:26, 6:1-4
 - ii. Order requires obedience – 2Th 3:14, Titus 3:1, 1Co 16:16
- d. If the doctrine is not working in you in your family, it will not work in the church.

4. Common Malfunctions

- a. Doctrinal disorder – This will destroy a church
 - i. Doctrinal error is serious – Rom 16:17-18, 2 Tim 2:16-17
 - ii. This must be confronted and removed – 1 Cor 11:18-19, 15:33
 - iii. There is a time to reject the heresy - Titus 3:10, Titus 1:9-10
 - iv. Solution: Mark it and avoid it / reject it
- b. Learning disorder – normally with the teacher, not the student
 - i. There must be a proper environment for edification – 1 Cor 3:1-3
 - ii. A failure to properly communicate – 1 Cor 14:2-3, 14:23-33
 - iii. Solution: Keep it quiet, speak so as to be heard and to edify
- c. Behavioral disorder – Also known as sin in the group
 - i. Normally comes from another disorder - 1 Cor 5:1-6, 6:5-6, 6:19-20
 - ii. Solution: Sharp rebuke before all – Titus 1:12-14, 1 Tim 5:20
- d. Ministry disorder – a lack of charity/care /zeal in the church
 - i. Not considering the other - 1 Cor 8:12, 10:23-24,12:25, Phil 2:21,2:30
 - ii. Solution: Preach the word, preach Christ – 1 Cor 2:16, 2 Tim 4:1-4