

Let All Things Be Done Decently and In Order
I Corinthians 14:40

Introduction:

I.

Discussion:

- I. Decently – “Appropriately,” “Correctly,” “Presentably.”
 - a. There are several ways that this is the case.
 - i. Worship must be reverent. Any different attitude would be inappropriate.
 1. Reverent = with deep respect, adoration, and interest.
 - a. If I am worshiping while thinking about lunch or afternoon plans, I am not really worshiping!
 - ii. Worship must emphasize building up one another.
 1. I Corinthians 14:26 – Everything must be done for upbuilding.
 2. Hebrews 10:24-25 – Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.
 - a. Have you ever wondered why we do not just worship at home?
 - i. We can sing at home.
 - ii. We can pray at home.
 - iii. We can study the Bible at home.
 - iv. We can give to the work of God at home.
 1. AND WE SHOULD DO THESE THINGS!
 - b. However, we cannot edify one another when we worship separately!
 - i. “But, preacher, I’m here. I know I should come to church. That’s why I came!”
 1. Yes, but how do you worship while here?
How do you treat Bible class?
 - a. Galatians 6:6
 2. How do you treat prayer at church?
 - a. I Corinthians 14:16-17
 - i. The purpose of prayer is to edify one another!
 3. How do you treat singing at church?
 - a. I Corinthians 14:15
 - i. We must understand what we sing. We must understand what other people sing.
 - b. our singing must be heard.

- i. Did you understand that? Did that encourage you? Did that teach or admonish you?
 - ii. Why not? YOU DID NOT HEAR WHAT I SAID!!
 - c. Here is what I said: "OUR SINGING MUST BE HEARD!"
 - i. "But I can't sing!"
 - d. God did not say that we should "make a sweet melodic sound to the Lord," but rather, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord!" (Psalm 100:1).
 - ii. In fact, there is but one act in worship that is not focused toward each other: The Lord's Supper.
 - 1. This is the one time where we must reflect and understand the immensity of the sacrifice that Christ gave for us on the cross.
 - a. How many of you do that?
 - i. Do you think about Jesus while we take the communion?
 - ii. Or do you think about afternoon plans?
 - iii. Do you balance the checkbook?
 - iv. Do you get ready for worship to be over?
 - b. Do you want to eat and drink to your own condemnation in hell?
 - i. I Corinthians 11:27-29
 - iii. Brothers and sisters, if our worship does not meet these purposes, we might as well not be here. If your priorities are elsewhere, it does no good for you to be here.
 - 1. Am I trying to run you out of here? NO.
 - a. I want you to see that worship without reverence makes it boring, lifeless, useless, and a waste of time.
 - b. If you have felt that those words describe worship, you are not worshiping with reverence. Your worship is not done decently!
 - iv. What if your favorite actor, or perhaps the President, were here today. Would that be boring? Would you feel like you were wasting your time

here? Would you be concerned with afternoon plans?

- v. IS GOD NOT HERE?
- vi. IS HE NOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY HUMAN BEING?
 - 1. Psalm 36:1; Habakkuk 2:20
 - 2. When you come into the assembly, I want you to realize why we are here: to bow in humble reverence to God, and to encourage one another in love.
 - a. We must empty our minds of everything else.

II. And In Order – “Orderly,” “Properly,” “According to Procedure.”

- a. In a nutshell, this means that our worship must be confined to certain regulations.
 - i. When we meet, we know that we will sing, pray, sing some more, hear a lesson, take the Lord’s Supper, Give, and then close with a song and prayer.
 - 1. This does not mean that we cannot occasionally do things in a different order. It means that our worship should not be chaotic in nature. It has to follow a pattern, or we need to be informed when the pattern will change (First Sundays, etc.).
 - ii. However, it would not be proper if someone were to stand in the middle of the prayer and try to lead a song.
 - 1. I Corinthians 14:26-36 – Let no more than two or three, but only one at a time.
 - 2. Even then, everyone needs to be able to follow each step of the worship service.
 - a. Language – Speaking in tongues, even in Paul’s time, required interpretation before it could be a part of worship.
 - i. Paul basically said that it makes as much sense just to speak the interpretation!
 - b. Order – I Corinthians 14:23
- b. It is also the case that we must submit to these regulations as the church has agreed to set them.
 - i. The church here meets twice on Sundays and once on Wednesdays.
 - 1. As such, you should be here and ready to worship EVERY time. To do otherwise is not submitting to the order of the church. It is not doing things “in order.”
 - a. How often do you go to work when you are supposed to go?
 - b. How often do you meet with the church?
 - 2. How can that be reverence?
 - ii. The services begin at set times: 9:30 on Sunday mornings, 5:00 on Sunday afternoons, and 7:00 on Wednesday nights.
 - 1. As such, you should be here and ready to worship ON time.
 - a. How early do you get to medical or dental appointments?

- b. How early do you get to worship?
 - 2. How can that be “in order?”
 - iii. If the church has set regulations on anything else, we must submit to the regulations, as far as we are able!
 - 1. As such, you should be here dressed modestly (i.e. – with attire that will not call attention away from the purposes of worship).
 - a. If what you wear does not cover you properly, it is immodest.
 - b. If what you wear is distracting, it is immodest.
 - i. I Timothy 2:9 – modest = appropriate (decently).

Conclusion:

- I. Paul ended his discussion on the problems that the Corinthian church faced with a simple statement: Let all things be done decently and in order.
 - a. This means it should be decent:
 - i. We should be reverent in our worship.
 - ii. We should treat Bible class with a sense of responsibility to encourage and teach others, rather than neglecting it for one more hour of sleep.
 - iii. We should treat prayer with an attitude of love for others and thankfulness toward God, rather than not focusing our minds during prayer.
 - iv. We should treat singing with a desire to teach and encourage one another, rather than simply looking at the words.
 - v. We should treat the Lord’s Supper with awe and sorrowful appreciation, rather than using the time to prepare to leave.
 - b. This means it should be in order:
 - i. We should be here EVERY time the church meets.
 - ii. We should be here EARLY and be ready to worship on time.