



## Reading through the New Testament—Week 29 July 23-29

### *Becoming* more like Jesus—growing in His Word

As we read through the New Testament together, there are inevitably hard passages to read and understand. In 1 Corinthians, Paul is correcting some misgivings and misbehaviors that have made their way into the church's culture. One such practice is read in chapter 11, where Paul begins to discuss head coverings. This is not a practice we currently have, but in the context of the first century it was culturally relevant.

When we come to a part of scripture that seems like it may not be relevant, it is important to seek wisdom from reputable sources. One of the sources that can help in these situations is a study Bible. This is a Bible that is equipped with tools such as commentary, cross-references, and concordances. The publishing arm of the LCMS, Concordia Publishing House, has worked with scholars, pastors, and other theologians to create the Lutheran Study Bible. This is a great resource when looking at the context of passages.

**The Lutheran Study Bible has the following note regarding 1 Corinthians 11:2-16:** The situations described in this section are largely foreign to our modern context. In Roman culture, both men and women conveyed their status, including their marital status, by their appearance. A head covering, basically a shawl draped over the head, conveyed that a woman was married and intended to remain in that situation. Some Roman women, however, sought to live as "new women" who did not intend to remain faithful to their husbands. Women who uncovered their heads immodestly drew attention to themselves by signaling that they were available to other men. In the name of "Gospel freedom" and "rights," this thinking and behavior began to influence Christians in Corinth. Paul's instruction, as in Chapters 8 - 10, reminds the Corinthians that their actions always communicate something to others. They are to refrain from behavior that communicates something at odds with the Christian life.

**See the sermon outline on page 2**

# THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

Read Through the New Testament

## Be Imitators

1 Corinthians 11:1

1 Corinthians 8 - 12 | Key:

**Today: B\_\_\_\_\_ I\_\_\_\_\_**

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

1 Corinthians 11:1

"Imitation is not just the sincerest form of flattery - it is the sincerest form of learning"

George Bernard Shaw

## Church in Corinth

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

What's Happening:

**B\_\_\_\_\_ I\_\_\_\_\_**

Jesus said, to the seventy-two, he sent ahead:

*"Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"*

Luke 10:8-9

Jesus: *"Go make disciples of all nations."*

Matthew 28:19

**Paul: *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.***

Connecting people to Jesus and others

## New Testament in a Year—July 23-29

### 1 Corinthians

Chapter 8  9  10  11  12 

## Additional Reflections from this week's reading

Think through the following for each chapter:

- What is the key relationship Paul is speaking into?
- What was the cultural norm?
- What is the proposed resolution for the wrong presented?

Chapter 8:

Chapter 9:

Chapter 10: (See Sermon Notes)

Chapter 11:

Chapter 12:

## *Blessing* the World

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.* 1 Corinthians 11:1

This week spend some time reflecting on the people in your life that you are imitating in order to become more like Jesus. Spend 2 minutes each day praying for them. Write them a quick text to say thank you and schedule some time together.

Also, who is imitating you as they strive to be more like Jesus? Can you name one or two individuals that you are discipling? Spend 2 minutes each day praying for them. Write them a quick text to say thank you and schedule some time together.

If you can't think of anyone, pray that God would open up a conversation for you to "go and make disciples."

# *Belonging* in Community

Connect Groups are a group of Christians who meet together regularly where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Connection is created through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer.

- Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together.
- Take some time to share any reflections of aha's you had from your reading.

There is an exercise in theatre where you try to mimic the actions of a person as they are doing them. You are essentially intently studying that person in order to imitate them. To be successful you have to have your full attention on them and your mind ready for action. If you are willing, you could even try this as a group. One person leads by making faces, moving their arms and legs, and torso while the group gives their best effort at following them.

As we talk about being imitators of Christ let's ponder what it looks like in our life to have our attention on Christ and our minds and bodies ready for action. Read Ephesians 5:1-19.

- How does Paul guide us to be like Christ?
- What can you do to prepare your mind, heart, and soul for the actions Paul speaks about?
- How well are you doing at those things that you just discussed? Where can you grow in those practices?

As we are imitators of Christ we, like Paul, also become people that others can imitate. Not to our glory but as examples and mentors in God's kingdom. In order for others to imitate us we need to be seen and encourage others to follow?

- What can you do so that others can see how you follow Jesus?
- What makes it hard to be transparent about your faith?
- What are relationships that you can develop in order to encourage others to be imitators of Jesus as you are?

As you close, ask God for the ability to be effective imitators of Jesus and to strengthen or bring relationships into your lives where you can encourage and teach what that looks like in everyday life.