



Discussion Guide

March 18, 2018

Contrast: Distinctive Genders

I Corinthians 11:1-16

Introduction:

Read I Corinthians 11:1-16

The Apostle Paul says some things to men and women in Corinth that sound to many people today, historically out of place, culturally out of touch and perhaps even sexist. Paul's teaching was important for this young group of believers. The way men and women were conducting themselves in the worship assembly was creating tension and disharmony in the church, and was a symptom of a deeper issue. Lively discussions are likely to come out of this teaching.

Discussion Questions

- 1.** It was stated in the Sunday sermon that men and women are considered co-equal although the Apostle Paul affords men the greater responsibility and ability for leadership in the Church and in the home. Do we understand and accept that co-equal line of reasoning as we read Paul's words?
- 2.** How much of what Paul writes in I Corinthians 11:1-16 seems rooted in first century culture, and how much is more timeless in nature? Why would you say that?
- 3.** What do we make of the fact that Jesus was virtually silent about gender roles in life, while Paul had quite a bit to say on the matter?
- 4.** This is pure speculation, but do you think that if Jesus had lived during a less "patriarchal" time, that he might have selected some women to be part of his 12 followers who would be entrusted with establishing his kingdom on earth?



5. The male leaders of Parkside are firm in their belief that men are to be the ones invited into the role of “elder” in the church. How do we explain that to women who may be in significant places of leadership in the workplace, and are highly respected in that role? Why would primary leadership for women be okay in the work place, but not in the church place?

6. Who have been the most influential leaders in your life, past or present? Men, aside from your Mother, who are the women who have had or continue to have a positive effect on your spiritual life? Ladies, how about you?

7. Look at these 4 instances of Jesus interacting with women. John 4 - The woman at the well, John 8 - The woman caught in adultery, Luke 7 – the sinful woman, John 20 - Mary Magdalene. These were women with rugged life situations who Jesus encouraged and renewed. What can men learn from Jesus that will make them a blessing to the women they interact with?

Moving Forward:

What practical steps can the men and women of Parkside take to set the pace for better relationships between men and women both in the church community, and the community at large?