

I Corinthians 11:2-16
GLORIFY GOD IN ALL YOUR RELATIONSHIPS AND ROLES

Good morning Fathom Church! My name is Jon Holm and I am one of the Elder Candidates here at Fathom. It is great to be with you all! Thanks for joining us!

Well last time I preached, I mentioned that I hadn't read the fine print on the elder job description and didn't remember anything about leading the church through a global pandemic.

Recently I realized that I had missed some other fine print on the elder job description. "Required to preach on some of the most difficult passages in the Bible"

Listen to what Dr Blomberg in his commentary says about the passage, "This passage is probably the most complex, controversial, and opaque of any text of comparable length in the NT. A survey of different exegetical options there are for a myriad of questions. And should inspire a fair measure of tentativeness on the part of the interpreter.

This is a difficult passage to understand much less preach.

- 1000's of pages written on it
- Theologians can't totally figure it out.
- Theologians can't agree
- Men and women issues
- Sexuality issues
- Modern day clash/world view
- Figuring out what is a timeless principle vs practice
- Dealing with it all in 30 minutes???

In light of the little time we have, and acknowledging that I am a lay person with a day job as a realtor, I want to spend our time pulling out some truths from this passage that can help encourage and challenge us in our lives, relationships, marriage and church.

Read the whole passage:

I am sure you had some reaction to the passage and if nothing else are mentally scratching your heads. So what are some **TRUTHS** we can extract from this passage?

1. We all have a God given responsibility to someone else.

(SLIDE)

- a. God designed order into creation
 - i. From the home, to the church, to society there are roles we all have in order for things to function in an orderly fashion.
 - ii. Here in the passage, it specifically talks about the roles of husbands and wives.
 - iii. VS3 READ
 - iv. Men/Husbands are responsible to follow the leadership of Christ
 1. Eph 5:25-33A
 - Did you catch that there is no authority of extra privilege for husbands but one of extra responsibility.
 - So how are you doing following your head/Christ
 - What are you doing on a regular basis to know what it means to know and follow Christ?
 - Knowing and honoring Christ is the most important thing in your life.
 - How well are you doing with submitting your life, your priorities, your values to him and following what he wants for you?
 - I am not just talking to you. I am talking to myself.
 - This passage was very convicting and revealing to me.
 - I realize that I can so easily get distracted by
 - v. Wives are responsible to follow the leadership of their husbands
 1. Eph 5:22-24, 33B
 2. Wives are you lovingly encouraging your husband to become all God has created the to be
 3. Are you a partner in the relationship working together to build a strong marriage.
 4. Are you seeking to glorify God in your relationship with your husband?
- b. So husbands and wives – how are you doing in your relationships with each other and with Christ?

2. Because of Sin, we have a hard time handling our relationships, responsibilities, and roles well (SLIDE)

- a. As you read through this passage you feel the tension in it.
- b. Particularly wives were dishonoring their husbands.
- c. In verse 16 Paul talks about being contentious.
- d. And since Paul points us back to creation in this passage all we need to do is to go to Genesis 3 and the Fall
- e. Gen 3:16 “To the woman he said, I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you”.
- f. As the result of Sin, we have a bent towards sinful responses, actions and attitudes in our relationships.
- g. Illus: One upmanship. Why do we do this?
- h. Sound depressing? – There is no hope?
- i. The world around us says the hope for the world problems are to be found in us.
- j. That somehow we can overcome all the evil and problems in the world
 - i. We can legislate it
 - ii. We can regulate it.
 - iii. We can educate it.
- k. How’s that working out????
- l. The only hope and solution for the sin problem is the gospel and Christ’s death on the cross.
- m. Here is the hope and beauty of the gospel
 - i. It honestly tells me that I am the problem – Sin in ME. ALL sin
 - ii. It honestly tells me that I cannot solve the problem on my own.
 - iii. Illus; Going to the doctor and them not being honest about your cancer.
 - iv. Illus: When first married – being passive aggressive. Beauty in Gods work of helping you see it before you say it.
- n. Because of Sin, we have a hard time handling our relationships, responsibilities, and roles well

3. Your role does not determine your value (SLIDE)

- a. When you first heard vs 3 read, did your mind go to a hierarchy?
- b. That's not Paul's emphasis here.
 - i. Notice the order
 - ii. If hierarchical then should have been God, Christ, Man, Woman
 - iii. Paul actually puts the emphasis on Christ as the ultimate head and example.
 - iv. Was Christ less than God because he submitted to him – No. He was equal with God, but chose to submit to fulfill God's purposes. NO LESS VALUE
- c. In our culture, it is impossible to submit/sit under someone's authority with out a sense of self or identity being diminished.
- d. The world says your value is tied to what you do/the position you have.
- e. Our culture says that your value is found in the position you have, your job, your possessions, your notoriety, your skill, your behavior, your sexuality, your gender, your looks and the list goes on and on.
- f. The problem with any of those is that those things can be taken away from you or diminished by someone else or time.
- g. What the Bible teaches is that our value is found only in the fact that we have been created in the image of God and he has placed value on us.
- h. Look at vs 7 – Image of God, Notice Paul didn't say that woman was the image of Man. Gen 1:27 "in the image of God, Male and Female.
 - i. No one can take that away from you.
 - j. And when you finally come to realize that truth it brings real freedom.
- k. ILLUS: Intellectually, Ruth my wife and I knew our value only came from God, but practically it took us years to really own and believe.
- l. For years we sought to find our value in all the things that the world said we should. And depending on how we were doing with jobs, positions, career paths, possessions, money,

kids, vacations, our self worth would go up and down. About 6 years ago, God took us through a series of painful losses and stripped us of many of those things that we found our value in. For me, when we were at the brink of financially losing it all, I surrendered and cried out to God one night and said you can take it all, even my life. I have you and that is all that matters. There is something mystical that happens at that point. There is a freedom that comes when you have nothing left to lose. (song!) It seems crazy, but freedom comes from surrender in God's economy. Because then it becomes about serving and following Him. It becomes about being able to freely give and serve because I already have everything I need in him. I don't lose anything by serving or submitting to others. In fact I can find great joy in submitting to him and others because it and honor to honor the one who had honored me by making me in his image and giving his life for me to experience the fullness of a relationship with Him.

- m. Ladies, your value comes from the fact that you are made in the image of God.
- n. That can NEVER be taken away from you.
- o. Right now your value tank is full to capacity and it will never go empty.
- p. When you are able to fully grasp that truth, then you have the freedom to fulfill the role he has for you.
- q. **Your role does not determine your value**
- r.
- s. That leads me to my next point

4. **In Christ, we are interdependent on each other.** (SLIDE)

- a. Vs 11-12
- b. Lest somehow we are tempted to focus on the roles God gives us and down play others or take advantage of others, Paul gives us a reminder of our need for each other.
- c. These verses emphasize mutuality and interdependence between the sexes
- d. Men & Women, you are uniquely God's special creation and you both are needed to compliment each other.

- e. Women we need you and the feminine perspective and abilities you bring.
- f. Men also are needed by women and the masculine perspective and abilities we bring.
- g. Our society is doing us a huge disfavor by blurring the lines and devaluating male and female sexuality.
- h. We can't be each other but need each other and that's the beauty of God's creation.
- i. I know that is so true in my marriage and relationship with Ruth.
- j. I need her and all she is as a woman.
- k. But I have to admit, I don't always appreciate that and need to be reminded of the gift she is from God she is to me.
- l. Illus: When you fall in love – see all the good in the other person and are blind to their faults.
 - i. Shifts over time – See the faults and shortcomings not the good.
 - ii. Ruth and my relationship – 36 years.
 - iii. Saw how over time I easily and naturally in my sinfulness began to focus on what bugged me about her. The crazy thing is that many of those things were what attracted me to her initially.
 - iv. I moved from seeing all the beautiful things she uniquely as a woman and person brought to our relationships that I couldn't bring, to why don't you do it they way I would.
 - v. That is a danger for all our relationships between men and women.
 - vi. How do you view each other?
 - vii. What are your attitudes towards the opposite sex?
 - viii. Do you see them as God's gift and unique special creation that we need.
 - ix. Do we value the unique gifts and perspectives that the opposite sex brings to the order of creation and how much we need each other.
- m. In Christ, we are interdependent on each other

5. It's not about you, It's about God and glorifying him (SLIDE)

- a. We see this throughout the passage
- b. Vs 1 – Chris didn't give me this verse but I'm going to take it back because it's part of my chapter!!!
- c. Imitate Christ – Be like Christ
- d. VS 12 – “all things are from God”
- e. How – Vs3 –
 - i. Paul Ending with Christ is there to point to him as our example
 - ii. Phil 2:1-8
 - iii. What qualities did you hear in that passage?
 - 1. Humility
 - 2. Servant leadership
 - 3. Sacrifice
 - 4. Counting others as more significant than yourself
 - 5. Not grasping for power
 - 6. Willing to totally submit to God's will.
 - iv. That's what our time each week taking communion each week is about.
 - 1. It should remind us of the Gospel/Good news of God choosing to humble himself and give his life for us
 - 2. Just think of what would happen if we would wake up each morning and ask, “God what can I do to honor you today with my life?” How can I sacrifice for you as you did for me.
- f. I think that is the main issue Paul is addressing here in this passage and actually through out the whole letter to the Corinthians.
- g. We learned about the:
 - i. Sophists – Look at me, I follow the wisest teacher
 - ii. Pride in their sexual license
 - iii. My rights – suing one another
 - iv. My rights to live the way I want because of my freedom in Christ “all things are lawful”
 - v. BUT through out, we see Paul telling them, “it's not about you, it's about what honors Christ. And I will limit my freedom to be helpful to others and therefore honor God

- h. In this passage, It's seems as though the women/wives had taken their new found freedom in Christ to pray and prophesy in church and were flaunting their freedom. "We don't have to be worried about any cultural practices"
- i. Read vs 4-6
- j. In their culture, what they did or didn't wear on their heads sent a message to others. How they wore their hair sent messages to others.
- k. For wives to cover their heads, or wear their hair up on their heads was a symbol of propriety. It showed they were faithfully married.
- l. And so you can imagine the shock or the messages that would be given in a church context for a wife to get up and pray or prophesy with her head uncovered.
- m. You can also imagine the shame it would bring to her husband as her actions would cause others to view his wife as sexually loose or unfaithful.
- n. ILLUS: The best Illustration I could think of to compare what it may translate to our day and age would be for a wife to get up here in church to pray and be dressed like a prostitute.
- o. What impact would that have on the church service?
- p. Would that help the congregation focus on worshipping God?
- q. The focus would definitely be on her and not on her words of prayer or prophecy that should be pointing the congregation to God.
- r. Vs 4-10 give a contrast of bringing honor or dishonor to God by how we
- s. Using our Christian freedom, without regards to others and the impact on others, is ultimately self-centered and dishonoring to God.
- t. It's not about you, It's about God and glorifying him

Church, God did something amazing at creation. He made this beautiful world and all that is in it and then made mankind to enjoy it and reflect glory back to him.

God also did something amazing at the cross. He made it possible for us to have a restored relationship with him and as a result, restored relationships with others.

Now through a restored relationship with him and by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, we can glorify him in whatever role or relationship he gives us.

Main Point: In whatever role or relationship we are in, our first priority is to glorify God. (SLIDE)

So how are you doing with the roles and relationships God has given you?

Are you finding your value in God alone so you can freely serve those in your life?

Do you value those around you as God does?

Do you know and are you fulfilling God's calling on your life?

Are you allowing his spirit to convict and change sinful patterns in how you handle your relationships?

Are you seeking to honor him in all your roles and relationships?

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD'S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I'm going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we'll take communion, and then we'll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." TAKE

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." TAKE

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let's stand and sing together.