

## **Bible Study Group Notes**

### 1 Corinthians 11.2-16

#### **THE BIG PICTURE**

This is a passage many Christians find difficult. Some of the details feel unfamiliar, and the subject of men, women, headship, and worship can be sensitive. So we want to approach it carefully, humbly, and graciously. The big idea is that gathered worship should honour God's good order in ways that are fitting and loving. Men and women are equal in dignity, different by creation, dependent in the Lord, and together under Christ.

#### **INVESTIGATE**

*Read 1 Corinthians 11.2-16.*

#### **Receive God's order under Christ** (11.2-3)

1. How does Paul begin in 11.2, and what tone does that give the passage?
2. What order does Paul describe in 11.3?
3. Why is it important that "the head of Christ is God" does not mean Christ is inferior to the Father?

#### **Honour God's difference in fitting ways** (11.4-10, 13-16)

4. What issue in public worship does Paul address in 11.4-6?
5. What do these verses suggest about honour, shame, and what is fitting in gathered worship?
6. What does Paul's reference to creation in 11.7-9 add to his argument?
7. Why should we be cautious both about imposing Corinthian head coverings woodenly today, and about dismissing the passage altogether?

#### **Remember our dependence in the Lord** (11.11-12)

8. Why is the word "nevertheless" in 11.11 important?
9. What does Paul say about men and women needing one another?
10. How does "all things are from God" guard us against pride, superiority, or resentment?

## **REFLECT & APPLY**

11. What does this passage teach us about receiving Scripture humbly, especially when it challenges our cultural assumptions?
  
12. How can a church honour both the equality and the difference of men and women?
  
13. What would it look like for men to exercise responsibility in a Christlike, servant-hearted way?
  
14. What would it look like for women's gifts, voices, wisdom, and service to be genuinely honoured and encouraged?
  
15. How can we handle disagreement on this passage with patience, humility, and love?

## **PRAY**

- Thank God that all things are from Him.
- Pray that our church would honour Christ in worship, relationships, leadership, and service.
- Ask God to make us a church where men and women honour one another, use their gifts gladly, and live together under the gracious headship of Christ.

*NB The Church Prayer Pointers for this month are available in church or on the WhatsApp group.*