

1Corinthians 18-10-21a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church. I am glad to say I'm glad to say anything actually, but my my voice is largely returned and I appreciate everybody's expressions of concern and prayers and I Sounded a lot worse than I felt for most of that time. But For reasons That Go back quite a few years if I get any kind of a cold, I typically get laryngitis and so God has a very effective way of slowing me down and stopping me from presenting class pretty much with a Wave of his hand.

I'm speechless. So I Will try to not get overly ambitious talking this morning, but Hopefully we'll Arrive at the end of our study this morning with the Same vocal intensity with which we begin you can be turning in your Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 14 This is Sunday the 21st of October 2018 Seems like there was a tremendous jump there for some reason. Yes 21st of October 2018 and we're continuing our study in the book of 1st Corinthians picking up at the end of chapter 14 there's a few concluding Observations to make about how silent women should be in church, and then we will move into In the second session 1st Corinthians chapter 15 Let's take a moment as we begin our fellowship in God's Word to go to the Lord in prayer and then we'll begin Father we are grateful for the Saving grace expressed to us through your son the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

We thank you for our bond in him for the Opportunities and the privileges that we enjoy we thank you for the Presence of your Holy Spirit the power of your word the example of the Lord Jesus and your call to a higher Level of Existence to partake of eternal life even now while we Exist in this temporal and mortal frame We thank you for this portion of your word and ask that you'll bless it to the nourishment of each heart that we will each find encouragement and guidance and direction motivation To live the life to which we have individually been called so that we can together Reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus both now and in the ages to come we pray these things in Jesus name. Amen You will remember that Paul is addressing order in the church Has been for several chapters now and This interests me and it should interest you I hope it interests you because it reminds me of a very Helpful point that I heard a pastor make you remember there was an interim for about a year where We were in transition and grace and truth was largely Archival in its presentations Matthew did a great job of keeping us all supplied and we had the chance to visit churches and so on and I Attended a church over in Owasso for some weeks Patty, and I did and Great church wonderful people the news and people there from a church I'd gone to as a youth our family had attended and there were still some hangers on there This is a plant from a church. We attended in Tulsa Strong Bible Church love him to death too far to drive.

It's not really local and I realized after Being there for a while that it's the same thing as before God will sometimes just light a fire under your calling by Removing you from it for a while And you know absence makes the heart grow fonder and it just became clear to me that Wasn't quite ready to retire in the studying and teaching mode But in the time that I was there I got a chance to

listen to another guy doing his job And he's a fine job and one of the points that he made that I thought was very interesting completely different from me in style and Delivery and level of organization and so on but he was looking at the pastoral epistles First and second Timothy and Titus why are they called pastoral epistles not because they are like the pastoral symphony of Beethoven But because they are letters written to pastors and We've not done those letters yet, I think we may soon, but we haven't yet and one of the reasons was That I thought well these are letters to pastors people in the church are not pastors. Why would I go? To the instructions for pastors and teach that to the people that pastors are supposed to be teaching I should read that for myself, which I've done many times and go over it and try to be sure that I'm following that guidance But the pastor of this church made what I thought was a very telling point and an excellent point When Paul is writing to Timothy and to Titus about how to shepherd their churches How to pastor their churches What is he going to tell them he is going to tell them the things that are most important for the church to know and to function under so in a way the apostolic guidance to pastors in the first century is a primer on What the church ought to be where its focus and emphasis should be and they're excellent letters to study because they've been given to all of us It's also a helpful Check on you know. How is your own pastor doing is he? conformable and Held accountable to the standards that the Word of God sets for him But he said you know if they're wonderful letters to study and he did fairly quick overview but he hit the highlights of what these letters emphasize because What's important for a pastor to know and teach in the church is what the church needs to know and understand right in the same way and by analogy when Paul talks to us in these several chapters about Order in the church unity in the church Function in the church the way men and women behave and exercise whatever gifts they have in the church We think well Okay, so when we meet for church Thursday night Sunday morning.

Whatever other Church we may attend or go to these are the rules that apply While we're at the church, and I got to thinking you know it's a lot like the Timothy Titus argument Why only at church? Are there special rules for church, and then we set those aside, and we live like profligate wastrels the rest of the time In the same way that Timothy and Titus are model guidance for pastors to communicate to their Congregation the way we are encouraged to conduct ourselves in church is the model for the way we conduct ourselves all the time This is the ideal the example is the Lord Jesus Christ, right? And he's perfect and you say well. I could never achieve The level of perfection of the Lord Jesus for multiple reasons, but that is the goal Toward which we press right the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We we strive for that.

That's our That's our standard in the same way this guidance is not only Well, here's how you should behave when we all get together and the the music plays and the word is taught this these are principles that should be Optimally reflected in the assembly of believers, but they should be reflected all the time Right so I think it's helpful and perhaps more pertinent in terms of application especially in a small church remember Corinth had a large assembly and Some of these pieces of guidance were particularly important where you have got Many dozens if not hundreds of

people all in one place and if it's meeting in a home This is going to be a large well-to-do home with a courtyard and with space around it and there it's like when Jesus was teaching and the crowds were assembled and it is ever more important to have order an understanding of discipline and function the larger a group gets and You can think about that also in terms of you know Let a woman learn in silence with all subjection if she has a question let her ask her wife it let the wife ask her husband at home if you're in a very small environment the understanding of What does and doesn't? impinge on the the Authority or the honor of the husband is different than it would be if you're in a big assembly And you've got rows and rows of people and suddenly somebody stands up and starts talking So with that as a preface what we're going to do this morning is in our first session conclude our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 14 particularly this section at the Ladder portion which of course begins in verse 33 B and I am The longer I study it the more convinced. I am that we have an unhappy division here The preceding section talking about what should happen whenever you come together beginning in verse 26 Each of you has a psalm has a teaching has a tongue has a revelation has an interpretation Let all things be done for edification. This is great when we meet for formal worship for formal fellowship and so on But isn't this a wonderful thing to have any time Two or three are gathered any time we have contact or fellowship with each other either Face-to-face or in this day.

You've got such great Communication tools and resources available as far as being online talking on the phone and things like that But if we are fellow believers We should always Be in Christ personally and individually and Centered in that it's going to be easy if the conversation turns if a question is raised if a point is being discussed that you have something that is pertinent that is Spiritually pertinent you have something helpful that is spiritually helpful because we are in Christ and we are spiritual Creatures and when two spiritual creatures get together It would be strange if it did not reflect right so think about the the Introductory point here as we review these few verses here beginning in 26. How is it then brethren? Whenever you come together each of you has a psalm has a teaching has a tongue has a revelation has an interpretation Let all things be done for up building After we've had contact with each other. We should feel up built we should feel better for it encouraged strengthened Reminded of things that that really count If anyone speaks in a tongue two or three at the most each in turn and let one interpret This is an orderly Form of communication right you say well, how would that pertain if I wasn't in a group? Have you ever? Now I can tell you confidently that I have never done this I have never participated in this in any way shape or form in the middle of a discussion where Someone is starting to make their point And I just cut them off because I already know what they're going to say and I'm going to give them my answer and save Them the trouble of giving it this is in the purely realm of hypothetical, but if it is proper and spiritual and beneficial and edifying for one person at a time to speak and complete their thought then maybe this should apply to all of our conversation and We should honor one another even if we know where were they they're going even if we've heard it before to Keep our peace listen attentively Do unto others as we would have others do unto us let them complete their thought Express their concern or their opinion or their advice whatever it might be When they have finished now, it's our turn to talk Do you not think that even in informal context

and non church context that this is both a an? Expression of love to one another and a good example for those who may be in the periphery.

We're not Creating disturbance we're not Rancorous we are not divisive. We're not Impolite or discourteous to one another So you see my drift here that these things that we've been thinking of as pertaining to church Fellowship really ought to be a part of our daily converse Conversation remember conversation used to mean lifestyle let your conversation be in the King James so if anyone is speaking whether it's in a tongue or not and sometimes somebody's trying to tell me something and and it seems to me they are speaking in a tongue because I don't get it and I feel the need to just stop them and straighten them out and I am Chastened here. I am chided by the Word of God That I should pay more attention to respecting the person and less on driving my argument to its Harsh conclusion So two or three at the most should speak and this sort of Limits the Mob rule thing where you get a bunch of people together, and there's you know one or two Influential people speak and and everybody is carried along and that we should be sober we should be peaceable two or three speak and This also prevents a bunch of people from ganging up on another person Have you ever seen these this notion of an intervention? We're all going to get together and straighten this person out with the force of our Concern and The Word of God says you know Two or three at most can speak and that'll get the job done Remember when the Lord Jesus said if somebody's got ought against you and you go and you try to be reconciled and there they won't Hear of it.

How many more people do you take? two or three that Keeps the chaos down it it prevents piling on and Then if it's something that needs to be decided in the assembly remember the dissent the assembly is organized and Emceed by elders and two or three of them are going to speak, but there's not going to be a free-for-all in the assembly, so it's all about respect and courtesy and limited Conversation not dragging things on And if things don't become clear in verse 28 if there is no interpreter the one who's speaking in a tongue if you've tried to Make your point two or three times and the other person is not getting it. It's time to be quiet It is as though you're talking in a tongue. I just don't understand what you're saying and it begins to Divide and disrupt and to disturb the person you're trying to communicate to you may be trying to share a point You understand from the Word of God or you're trying to be helpful in their their life or their lifestyle or their choices or? Whatever if they're not getting it After you've tried a time or two to make it clear It's the same as if somebody's talking in a tongue And there's no one to interpret and what's the guidance in the church if there's a lack of understanding of what's being said? Stop talking all right.

It's a helpful Guide it's a great example as it goes in the church, so it should go in our life just modified a bit Verse 29 let two or three prophets speak let the others judge If somebody speaks let them come to their own conclusion Let them decide if your words have weight let God the Holy Spirit if you've been trying to speak divine viewpoint let the Holy Spirit Do the convincing let the others judge? They've heard the word if it's from God, and if they're receptive the Holy Spirit will

do the work let the others Judge for themselves you don't have to just keep You know You're in an arm-wrestling match, and you're making the argument making the argument You think you've got them at two o'clock three o'clock four o'clock? But you just want to get it all the way down to the table and so you admit. I'm right Let it go let them judge Look at verse 31 prophesying one by one so that all may learn and all may be encouraged the result of communication in a group of believers in a conversation between believers should be these two things learning and encouragement Learning and encouragement and by the way circle learn that's going to come back up here next week In our review of the last part of the chapter That all may learn and all may be encouraged Wouldn't this be ideal if every time we rub elbows with our fellow Faithful growing believers we come away better for it we're encouraged and we've Had an insight we've found out something new we see things from a better perspective The spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets if you are the one trying to communicate and we so often are I mean Not that this is my personal experience I don't typically have much of a thing to say to somebody when I'm in a conversation and of course I'm being It's not irony it's sarcasm toward myself You know most of the time you want to say something you want to get something across you want to prophesy you've got a point And sometimes it's very Non-confrontational we just have an opinion or a thought or an idea and we think you know if you ever It's it's almost a truism in the church that you know you go to church Or you you're listening to the radio to some Christian speaker, and they have a really good point And you say oh boy you know so-and-so really needs to hear this let me get a copy of that tape Let me send them that book let me this is going to do them so much good and we forget to say you know have I really listened to it if I thought whether it would do me any good and You know people that are constantly Like a reflecting surface something hits And it's going to we're going to bounce it towards somebody else instead of letting it penetrate We just have to be careful about that, but if we are going to prophesy if we are going to communicate a truth to someone The Spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets we need to be Careful and disciplined and Reign ourselves in keep ourselves in check go so far and no farther look at the At the encouragement aspect look at the learning aspect look at saying a little something and then being quiet let Others judge the weight of what has been said and don't drive to the finish necessarily Learn and encourage spirits are subject God is not the is not of remember the author of isn't there God is a god of peace He's not a god of confusion, and we don't want someone coming away from a Contact with us being confused Learning and encouragement are sort of the opposite of confused and distressed then that ends that section and the new section begins right in the middle of verse 33 as In all the churches of the saints and you need to divide this you need to put a capital a on as this Pertains to verse 34 it is a part of verse 34 syntactically grammatically Textually logically this begins the next section as in all The churches of the saints let your women keep silent in the churches Let your women keep silent in the churches They are not permitted to speak. There's not a lot of wiggle room in here Paul says all of the churches have the same guidance They are not permitted to speak, but to be Submissive as the law also says when you go back to the law.

What does the law teach? Men are the elders men are the priests men are the communicators

men are the decision-makers There are assigned roles and leading speaking administrating the Priestly office Communication of God's Word is assigned to men There's a reason for it if verse 35 they want to learn something let them ask their own husbands at home For it is shameful for women to speak in church shameful for women to speak in church now Flip back a page or two to chapter 11 Verse 2 I praise you brethren that you remember me and all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you But I want you to know something that Pertains to keeping these traditions as they were delivered. I Want you to know that the head of every man is Christ The head of woman is man and the head of Christ is God Every man praying or prophesying having his head covered dishonors his head But every woman who prays or prophesies with their head uncovered Dishonors her head for that is one in the same as if her head were shaved If a woman is not covered let her also be shorn But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved let her be covered For a man indeed ought not to cover his head since he is the image and glory of God But woman is the glory of man Man is not from woman woman for man nor was the man created for the woman But the woman for the man for this reason the woman ought to have authority on her head because of the angels Nevertheless man's not independent of woman woman's not independent of man in the Lord When it came for man man also comes through woman all things are from God Judge among yourselves remember when Paul just got through saying let two or three prophesied and let others judge Judge among yourselves is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not nature itself even teach you that if a man has long hair it's a dishonor to him But if a woman has long hair, it's a glory to her It's given to her for a covering if anyone seems to be contentious We have no such custom nor the churches of God Nor the churches of God we covered this and Last time which may be a little difficult to remember since it was a while ago but this is a seeming contradiction between 11 which Talks about women praying and prophesying as long as they have their head Covered in other words we we say well as long as they don't endanger or undermine the authority of their husbands Maybe it doesn't pertain to unmarried women. We saw Phillips daughters and so on But it's a little confusing.

In fact, it is very confusing In fact, it is profoundly confusing when you compare what Paul says in this section of chapter 11 to what he says here in Chapter 14, which seems to pretty well nail the coffin lid shut on women saying anything in church so How can he say? Women are not to speak in church. They've got anything to say Let them talk to their husbands at home is what it seems to imply Versus 11 that says well, it seems as though as long as it's done properly women can pray and prophesy in the church They just need to be sure their head is covered well, this is such a Bare contradiction such a straightforward difference in point that it has It has been a crux interpret them for centuries. I have a Good commentary.

It's not one of my you know, check it because it's bad and see what the bad guys say This is a good commentary But I will tell you that when the guy gets to our section here at the end of chapter 14 and He's he's not ultra conservative. He's I would say he's sort of He's he's middle-of-the-road but on the conservative side of the middle he believes in inspiration He believes in

taking the text as it sits. He's he doesn't freely speculate that there's a corruption or whatever but this guy When he gets to this part that we just read in first Corinthians 14 Let a woman Remain silent it is so Exclusive it's grammatically inescapable.

You can't interpret it. You can't limit it. You can't qualify it The man says, you know as much as I'm a textual conservative everything else I believe this has been stuck in the text.

It's an interpolation Paul didn't write it Paul could not have written this because Paul wrote what we just read in chapter 11 and they are so opposite and contradictory One of them he goes through Exhaustively all of the ways people have tried to reconcile these two passages and he explains how all of them are inadequate you just can't weasel out and He's one of the first ones to say I'm not even going to treat the ones that seem to be motivated by Starting with a conclusion. He said the ones that have come from basically women's liberation and Feminists and so on who have started with the conclusion that it's got to be okay for women to do everything in the church Have then tried to shoehorn that back into the text. He said I'm not even going to talk about those Let me give you the legitimate ones where they're arguing from grammar or they're arguing from Tradition or they're arguing from some other legitimate grounds and he says none of these work I am forced to conclude that one of these passages isn't really Paul And it's this one And he gives the reasons why well You've got guys that have got many many more letters after their names than me and a lot of them who can't make sense of these two passages side-by-side Some of y'all have come to me both when we were doing 11 and now that we're in 14 and and I say come to you know Communication of whatever textual sort or phone conversation sort or questions in the in the off hours and It's fair It's difficult the greatest scholars and minds seminary trained Have decided that it's just a real thorny problem Well because I lost my voice last week.

I've had some extra time to Puzzle on this and work on it, and you know my default belief If the meaning of Scripture is difficult, where do we look to figure it out? In Scripture so having read all of the Stuff flying through the air. I thought you know what I'm just going to go back And I'm just going to read it, and I'm going to read it I'm going to think about it, and I'm going to see what it is is being said and with apologies for anything that I said when we covered chapter 11 that may Slightly conflict in thinking back. I haven't gone back and listened to myself.

I didn't really have time, but I don't think this so much what I'm about to offer you by way of Understanding I don't think it's so much Changes what we studied in chapter 11 about the importance of not undermining Authority in any of the realms where God has assigned it. I do think it may put it in a slightly different light so if I Contradict myself. I'm sorry.

I've I've learned something I didn't know when I was going through 11 by working so hard on chapter 14, so if there's a conflict I ask your pardon in advance, but I do think Having read this over It has it has become clear to me Clear enough, and so I'll offer you that understanding at this point what I first want to do though Is read two other parallel passages that pertain? and We've talked about these before Let's go over to Timothy having talked about Timothy Paul's

instructions for And this is going to be first Timothy chapter 2 And Paul is committing a charge look at chapter 1 verse 18 this charge. I commit to you my son Timothy According to the prophecies made concerning you that by them you may wage Good warfare This is going to be a battle to fight it effectively these are things you need to know so of chapter 2 I exhort Supplication prayers intercession and giving of thanks be made for all men Kings those who are in authority We may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior Who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth? verse 8 I desire therefore that men pray everywhere Lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting This isn't people everywhere. It's not brethren in an inclusive sense.

This is men Would seem to conflict with what we read in chapter 11 right if women can pray. Why does he say I? Desire that men pray everywhere lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting in Like manner also that the women notice the contrast here There's no doubt that the men and women are being addressed by gender separately Women adorn themselves in modest apparel propriety and moderation Not braided hair gold pearls cost of clothing, but which is proper for women professing godliness with good works Let a woman learn in silence with all submission I Do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence And it doesn't get much clearer than this Adam was formed first then Eve Adam was not deceived the woman being deceived fell into transgression So This is pastoral guidance the books of Timothy and Titus are guidance for all pastors of all churches All the way through the church age. That's why they're here.

They're fruitful to study as a congregation member because You will know where your pastor is getting his ideas or where he's not getting them because this is the manual a lot of pastors have undertaken to write a guidebook for pastors or a handbook for Churches and so on don't need that got it right here And there's really no wiggle room in what Paul tells Timothy here at all You can also go back to Ephesians Where you have the relationship Of the man to Christ and the wife to the husband husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and Gave himself for it We also have the Exhortation to the Thessalonians if you look at Second Thessalonians chapter 3 beginning at verse 6 We command you brethren in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ Withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us Remember Paul told Timothy Paul told the Corinthians. I'm glad that you follow the tradition that I delivered to you You yourselves know how you ought to follow us. You are not disorderly.

We were not disorderly among you We didn't eat anyone's bread free of charge we worked with labor and toil night and day that we might not be a burden to any of you and This is a good model for all Christian endeavor that To the extent that you can support yourself by any means you do Not to be a burden not to expect to be supported just because you are in some sort of ministry Not because we do not have authority to but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us Even when we were with you, we commanded you this if anyone will not work neither shall he eat We hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner not

working at all, but are busybodies To those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread As for you brethren do not grow weary in doing good if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle Note that person and do not keep company with him that he may be ashamed Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother notice the stress on orderliness What does that mean? What is the order? What is the order? Well hasn't he given it to us time after time? There's Christ There is the man. There is the woman In the church, there is Christ There is the pastor and the elders and then there's the congregation, right? It's an order It's an established order in the Levitical priesthood. It was the Lord God the high priest The rest of the priests on the priestly side on the civil side.

It was the Lord God It was Moses and then it was the elders of the tribes God always establishes an order there is Authority and there is accountability for the exercise of that authority you can delegate Some things you can delegate duties you can delegate things, but you can't delegate Responsibility if you are responsible for a thing you can't say well you'd be responsible for that now. I'm off the hook with authority comes responsibility and with authority and responsibility comes Accountability if you fail to properly exercise your authority if you fail to properly maintain your authority if you fail to properly acknowledge authority there is accountability and there are Consequences that is order. It's not just oh, let's not have a chaotic meeting Order is the structure designed by God.

There is a way that things should be done There's a way that things should be supported. There is a way that things should be acknowledged that are above us and There are things that should be acknowledged that we are Authorized to Be responsible and accountable for that others should maintain with us. This is God's order Paul is talking about that order in 1st Corinthians chapter 11 and chapter 14 so if it's such a big conundrum that Very little if any agreement has been arrived at there's sort of a default well We'll just kind of try to you know in conservative churches Will not have a woman pastor, but in the majority of churches in the United States today There's no distinction between men and women and you've got assistant pastors and pastors and husband-wife teams that are co-pastoring and plenty of woman pastors women teachers woman led ministries and so on The Word of God is talking about that right here through the Apostle Paul.

That is God's order It is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the head of all things to the church It is the Apostles through whom he communicated the authoritative word It is given to us and delivered to us through the ministry of God's Holy Spirit and whatever it says We need to figure it out and follow it and there is great confusion on this point So what's the answer we're going to pause here and take our break and when we come back? We will see I'm Going to not just suggest. I'm going to demonstrate to you Why there is no inconsistency it's something I think has been missed and Once we observe it all of these are going to fall perfectly in place Difficult passages are illuminated by clear passages. Is there anything unclear in first Corinthians 14? Women learn in

silence with subjection got a question ask your husband anything unclear in Timothy anything unclear about observing the order So our difficulty is back in 11 with praying and prophesied in the head covering.

Well, I Think we have it figured out. So let's pause and take our break When we come back, we'll take this up and move into chapter 15. Let me leave you with one final thought Which is the one I began with? Don't think that these exhortations for the church are just for church time think of the Usefulness and the applicability of these principles in every area of our life What's good for the church has to be good for us all the time, right? It's not a special holy This is why even if we ever had a building.

I would never call the place where we meet that's got the Stand up in the front the lectern You stand on a podium and you stand behind this is my lectern If there was a podium it would be a raised thing that I stand on You know podiatrist works on your feet just remember this thing with a book on it is not a podium Unless I'm standing on it Right. This is a lectern Pulpit, whatever you say People call that a sanctuary As though there's something Isolated and holy about it. I think that's a mistake There's a sense in which we are Believers in worship all the time and What pertains in the ecclesia and in the assembly of believers should pertain anytime there are two or three gathered together not much guidance for conversation and behavior and authority if there's only one of us if you're Talking to Wilson out on a desert island somewhere Then maybe some of this doesn't pertain but the rest of the time when we're rubbing elbows with one another Two or three gathered the Lord in the midst, how would this guidance not always pertain so food for thought let's pause and take our break