

Order!

I. Slide#1 (Baptism)

II. Slide#2 Intro:

- A. Any time a judge is sitting at his bench, & his court room starts getting a little out of hand, he cries out “*Order in the court!*”
- B. God seems to love *order*. He ordered **relationships**. He ordered the **heavens** (when disorder/ Lucifer, immed. dealt w/). He ordered the whole **universe**.
1. Of the **sea** He said, **When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; When I said, This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!**
 2. He made **a path for the thunderbolt**. Job.38:25
 3. He made **the path of the seas**. (i.e. Ocean currents) Ps.8:8
 4. He made **the 4 seasons**. Gen.8:22
 5. Eccl.3:1 **To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven.**
 - a) **Slide#3** Owing a marine aquarium I realize how fragile its eco system [It demands perfect order]
 - (1) Lighting system (VHO lighting fixture & LED's to simulate a 24 hour day; dawn/dusk/daylight).
 - (2) Just a little too much **light or temperature** too high...& **green algae**.
 - (3) **Aiptasia Anemones** try to take over the tank like weeds.
 - (4) **Must keep an eye** on the water density, salinity, PH, ammonia, Phosphates, Nitrate, Nitrite, filtration, weekly water changes. [And I'm just dealing with **26 gal.**]
(a) Gods deals with **326 million trillion** gallons.
 6. Tonight, Paul's gavel comes down & cries for **order** in 1 more thing, **Order in the Church!**

III. Slide#4 TO THE UNBELIEVERS IN CHURCH! (20-25)

A. Slide#5 UNBELIEVERS & TONGUES! (20-23)

B. Corinthians & Crayons! (20)

1. The Corinthians were acting like children playing with **toys**, when it came to the **gifts**.
2. **Be immature** when it comes to **knowing how to sin**, **but mature** when it comes to **understanding**.
 - a) Immature when it comes to **Malice or**, “wickedness, maliciousness, ill-will.”

C. Slide#5b Corinthians & Assyrians! (21,22)

1. This seems to be a *paradoxical* passage.
 - a) 1st saying **Tongues is** for **unbelievers**(22); **then** saying it is **not** (23).
 - b) Then the same for **Prophecy**. 1st it says it is **not** for unbelievers(22b); then it **is**(24,25).
 - (1) **So which is it?** Yes! All 4.

- (a) It's like Prov.26:4,5 **Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.**
- (b) Don't be drawn down to a fool's level (4), **but** at times you must use the fool's language to refute the fool, so he doesn't become conceited.

c) So here, **all 4 points are true** in it's different cases that they are dealing with.

2. Is.28:11,12 **For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,...Yet they would not hear.**

a) **Isaiah** was speaking to the **whole nation of Israel** at a time when the **Assyrians** were threatening to capture Jerusalem.

(1) Through the prophet, God was warning the nation that, if they didn't repent, they were going to **hear foreigners** talking in the Holy City; they were going to **hear Gentile tongues** filling the streets of that city. It is a **warning** to Israel to face up to their relationship w/God lest He turn from them to the Gentile world

b) **If you read the Day of Pentecost in that light**, you will see how fully that agrees with this prediction, **for**, on that day, when the streets of Jerusalem were filled with thousands and thousands of people, largely Jews, who had come from all the nations around, they heard the disciples speaking these strange, Gentile languages they had never learned. It was a sign to **un**believing Jews that God was about to turn from Israel's favored position and go to the Gentile world.

(1) Acts 2:12,13 **So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, Whatever could this mean? Others mocking said, They are full of new wine.**

(a) Well, they actually were Lk.5:37,38 **And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, & the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, & both are preserved.**

(2) This is one way it was a sign to **un**believing Jews!

D. **Slide#5c Crazy Corinthians!** (23)

1. **Maybe you've found yourself before in this situation?**

E. **Slide#6 UNBELIEVERS & PROPHECY!** (24,25)

F. **Convincing Conviction!** (24,25)

- 1. In **24b** what is emphasized is the fact that Prophecy is the teaching tool for **believers**
 - a) Here we'll see how they can **profit from** prophecy **but** it is not **aimed at** unbelievers.
- 2. Again Prophecy doesn't have to mean **fore-telling the future**, **but** it also is used as the speaking forth of the mind & counsel of God, **or** the will & message of God.

G. When truths are **understandable & comprehensible** then here's what happens, **he's: Convinced; Convicted; Exposed**(revealed); **Prostrated**(fall down on face); **& then He Reports. 5 Things!**

1. **Slide#7 He's Convinced!** (24a)

- a) This word means to convict, To so present the evidence that one is driven to the conclusion that the argument is correct. TDNT/LKGNT
- b) *He sees what he is, & is appalled.*
 - (1) Jn.4:29 **Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did.** [woman @ well]
- c) **Slide#8 Alcibiades**(Al-ci-bi-a-des), friend of Socrates, politician & general of Athens, used to say to his friend, Socrates, I hate you, for every time I meet you, you make me see what I am!¹

2. **Slide#9 He's Convicted!** (24b)

- a) To examine, To cross-examine, To put through a questioning as when on is questioned & examined by a judge in court. Lenski/LKGNT
- b) *He sees he must answer for what he's done.*
- c) So far he's been his own man, answering only to himself, living his own life, w/no thoughts of God...**then** he realizes, *his life will have an end, & there stands God!!!*

3. **Slide#10 He's Exposed!** (25a)

- a) *His dark secrets of his heart are laid bare!*
- b) The last thing we face is our own hearts.
 - (1) A proverb says, **"There are none so blind as those who *will not see.*"**
- c) It's like when you stare into a mirror, really taking a look at your-self!
 - (1) **You know the real "you!"**

4. **Slide#11 He's Prostrated!** (25b)

- a) προσκυνεω – To fall down in worship. To prostrate oneself.
- b) *He is brought to his knees before God!*
- c) All Christianity **begins** w/a man on his knees in God's presence.
 - (1) Phil.2:9-11 **Therefore God exalted him(Jesus) to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**
- d) (Barclay) **"The gateway is so low that we can enter it only upon our knees."**
- e) Once you've **faced God & faced yourself**, all that is left for you to do is to **kneel** & to **pray**...saying, **"God be merciful to me a sinner"!**

5. **Slide#12 He Reports!** (25c)

- a) *He reports, "really, God is among you!"*

¹ William Barclay, pg.132.

- b) *Jospeh Twitchell* tells how he went to visit **Horace Bushnell** (a Congregational Minister & Theologian; early 1800's) when Bushnell was an old man. - At night Bushnell took him for a walk on the hillside. As they walked in the dark, suddenly Bushnell said, "Let us kneel & pray," & they did. Twitchell, telling it afterwards, said, "I was afraid to stretch out my hand in the darkness *in case I should touch God.*"²
- c) How wonderful to watch this process happen over & over again! (unbel's waking up to God)
- (1) We as Christians, all have had to go through this *same process!*

IV. Slide#13 TO THE BELIEVERS IN CHURCH! (26-40)

- A. Slide#14 ORDER WHEN YOU COME TOGETHER! (26-33)
- B. (26) What a wild service their 1st church services must have been like.
- C. (27-31) **Order**, so all may **learn**, & all may be **encouraged!** (31)
- D. (32) It **is** controllable!
- E. (33) **All** the churches should have order, not disorder!
- F. Slide#15 ROLES IN THE CHURCH! (34,35)
- G. **Women!** (34)
1. Women could participate in the public worship service: **In Prayer & Prophecy** (see 11:5)
 - a) As **spiritual gifts** were for both men & women.
 - b) **But**, it seems they were *flaunting* their Christian liberties here!
 - (1) In the Corinthian culture women were not allowed to **confront** men in public.
 - c) In that day **women** didn't receive *religious formal training* as the **men** did.
 - (1) The questions they were asking out in service probably could have been answered at home by their husband.
- H. Now let's address the **Men** regarding this.
- I. Slide#15b Men! (35)
1. **Paul lays a responsibility upon the men.** They were to teach their wife's *spiritual truths*, **but** to do so at home!
 - a) Sad to say, in many families it is the **wife** who has to teach the **husband!**
 2. Men, it doesn't matter if she has been **saved longer** than you; **prays better** than you; **studies more** than you... **YOU ARE TO FIND THE ANSWERS!**
 - a) **Be strong and conduct yourselves like men**, (1 Sam.4:9)
 - b) **I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;** 1 Tim. 2:8

² William Barclay, pg.133,4.

3. **Men go buy a bible dictionary** (Eastons; Baker; Holman; Smiths) & a “whole bible com set”.
 - a) **Slide#16 I like:** Warren Wiersbe's “The Bible Exposition Commentary”(2 vol.NT); Walvoord & Zuck’s, “The Bible Knowledge Commentary”(2 vol.OT/NT)
 - (1) Wayne Grudem’s *Systematic Theology*. [It formulates the bible in a Topical format of biblical truths/doctrines] [eg. the doctrine of the Godhead, Theology, Christology, Pneumatology, Angelology, Soteriology]
 - (2) A *Biblical Theology* would be a progressive/chronological unfolding of God's special revelation/redemption throughout history.
 - b) Or, get a good recommendation from a friend you can trust.
 - c) Ask how to use them if you don’t know.
 - d) *It is your responsibility!*
4. **Another dynamic to think about.** If a woman is always going to a **male friend**, or **pastor** for her answers, **it can cause** an **unhealthy relationship**, that starts with this dangerous thought in her mind, *“I wish my husband was spiritual like that man!”*
 - a) **I’m not saying** don’t ever ask a pastor or a friend. What I’m saying is **“ask your husband 1st !”** – Give him a shot at it ladies!...It’s biblical!
5. **Ladies**, asking your husband a spiritual question could be like *being able to open the mayonnaise jar for guys!* (Ps: you can **question**, but don’t **criticize** his answer)
6. My experience is, that it is very hard for a **lady** to give up being the spiritual leader in the home, if she’s held that role, when the man finally recognizes his role!
 - a) Work on that release.

J. **Slide#17 DECENT & IN ORDER!** (36-40)

K. (36) Paul speaking *facetiously* to the Corinthians.

L. (38) (NIV) *“If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.”*

M. (40) **Decently** – Fitting, done in a proper way.

N. **In order** – means doing things at one time, not all at once.

1. He told the church at Colosse the same, **For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.**
2. Titus1:5 **For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you**
3. He ended 1 Cor.11 w/**And the rest I will set in order when I come.**

O. **Slide#18 Questions to ponder:**

1. What else comes in to play for a service to be **decent & in order?**
2. How would **you** do a church service different?

3. Does the size of the congregation help to define the **order** of a service?
4. Does **order** look different in a church of 35 people, **than** a church of 2000?
5. Is there a certain amount of **freedom** for churches to do their services differently?
6. Are you **too judgmental** or **too critical** on how other churches operate?