

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE (EPISODE 160)

LESSON 34

[“Keep the Ordinances, As I Delivered Them”](#)

Hook	The Corinthian saints had some serious dysfunctions, but Paul’s solution is simple—love each other and the rest will work itself out.
Manual Goal	To help class members learn from Paul’s teachings about how to share the gospel and how to live as Saints.
EGD Goal	To inspire class members to seek charity, that love that cares about another’s well-being more than one’s own self-interest.

Potential Bonus episodes:

- Understanding Jesus (his ministry, different early Christian conceptions, historical vs. theological approaches)
- The significance of Paul.
- Who copied the New Testament? The story of the scribes.
- Canon (why the books that made it in did and what we learn from those books that didn’t)
- Translations of the New Testament

I. Sunday School

- a. And you think your ward has problems (issues in the Corinthian community: divisiveness, lack of unity, grasping for status; sexual immorality; members taking each other to court; confusion over marriage and sex; debate over food sacrificed to idols; distrust of Paul’s authority; women’s head coverings [following cultural norms]; the wealthy eating up all the food at the linger longer; unworthiness taking the sacrament; status seeking relating to spiritual gifts; doctrinal misunderstanding [resurrection])
- b. Review the Reading
- c. Learning from Paul’s teaching about food sacrificed to diols (1 Cor 8)
- d. Men and women (talk about 1 Cor 11, veils, cultural norms). How do we distinguish cultural norms from gospel principles? (VERY important topic)
- e. Men, women, and the temple
- f. Charity (Discuss each trait one by one) Agapé (that’s three syllables tyvm). Patient. Kind. Not envious/boastful/rude. Does not insist on its own way. Not resentful/irritable. Rejoices in truth, not wrongdoing. Bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Never ends.

- g. Differing spiritual gifts and status
- h. Conclusion I
- II. Scripture Study
 - a. What did Paul mean by “ordinances”?
 - b. Paul’s letters in context (occasional, like hearing one side of a phone conversation)
 - c. (Remind listeners of the overview of Paul’s relationship with the Corinthians last lesson)
- III. Study Notes
 - a. But... these scriptures aren’t talking about priesthood ordinances (Talk about how often this is done—a verse out of context, applied to distinctive Mormon ideas, in a way that often doesn’t hold up upon closer examination. “Celestial” and “Terrestrial” is another example)
 - b. Priesthood ordinances down the Rabbit Hole
 - i. Literal belief: How exactly do they save us?
 - ii. Ordinances save us, but not in the way we think
 - iii. Ordinances have value, even if they don’t literally save us
 - c. Men, Women, and the Temple II (veils)
 - d. Spiritual gifts then and now
 - e. Nature of the resurrection
 - f. Conclusion II

Resources

Get good body of Christ/unity talks

http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_humanity_s_stairway_to_self_transcendence?language=en

<http://mormonsundayschool.org/049-the-kingdoms-of-glory-doctrine-covenants-and-church-history-20/>

<http://mormonsundayschool.org/042-seek-ye-earnestly-the-best-gifts/>

- The [moral roots of liberals and conservatives](#), a TED talk by Jonathan Haidt about how we are wired to be liberal or conservative, and how we desperately need both perspectives.