**A God of Order** *(1 Corinthians 14:33, 40)*

**Introduction**

1. Paul noted that God is not a god of confusion, and that all things were to be done ***“decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40).***
2. Disorder in Corinth with regard to spiritual gifts:
   1. **(v. 26)** – People were overlapping each other with speech – speaking over each other. (**A cacophony of unintelligible noise.)**
   2. **(v. 27-28)** – Tongue speakers were speaking out of turn, and some without interpreters. (**Speak one at a time, and always have an interpreter.)**
   3. (**v. 29-32)** – The prophets were doing the same. (**They were to take turns – one by one – and they had the ability to control themselves – *“spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”***)
   4. **(v. 33)** – God does not CAUSE NOR CONDONE confusion and pandemonium. (**He is a God which causes and demands harmonious peace.**)
   5. **(v. 34-35)** – Women were speaking and causing disruption contrary to God’s revealed role for them.
   6. **(v. 36-40)** – The Corinthians were acting contrary to the revealed will of God concerning spiritual gifts. **THEY NEEDED TO PRACTICE THEM, BUT IN AN ORDERLY WAY!**
3. The world wants to believe that God is relaxed concerning religious practice. That man can do as he pleases as long as he is sincere.
4. The Corinthians were doing as they pleased concerning the use of spiritual gifts, and were rebuked by Paul, because God is **A God of Order**, and had an order concerning spiritual gifts. (**They needed to submit to that order.)**
5. This is the same with all other facets of religion. God is **A God of Order**, and we must act accordingly – orderly.
   1. Some understand God is **A God of Order**, but are inconsistent with the logic of this concept.
   2. **Either God has order, and we must submit to it in every way, or, God has no order, and we can do whatever we want however we want. There is no in between!**
6. A God of Order
7. Creation
   1. **Genesis 1:31** – After God created everything, He saw it was ***“very good.”***
      1. The use of ***“very good”*** to describe creation inheres a concept of orderliness.
      2. “The term ‘good,’ as here used does not refer to moral qualities, or to righteousness in any sense; for it was applied to all creation – to the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, and all things on the earth. Man was good in the sense that all things else were good – they were perfectly adapted to the purpose God had in view when he created them.” (Robert L. Whiteside)
      3. **God had a plan in creation, and it was fulfilled TO THE VERY ORDER HE INTENDED. (EXAMPLE: Laws of nature – gravity, etc.)**
   2. *The ways of nature, all the cycles and patterns, are according to the divine order.*
8. Man
   1. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** – God’s order for man was essentially to live orderly – i.e. according to His commands.
   2. ***“The steps of a man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way” (Psalm 37:23).***
   3. ***“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23).***
   4. God has not left man to his own devices, but has supplied him with sufficient instruction – order.
9. His Church
   1. **Matthew 16:15-19** – Jesus established His church with order.
      1. The foundation of His church is the truth of Peter’s confession – Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. (**All other churches built on a different foundation are not according to the Lord’s order** – **cf. 1 Corinthians 3:11)**
      2. **(v. 19)** – There is a divine binding and loosing – orderliness of behavior revealed by God.
   2. **1 Timothy 3:14-15** – Paul wrote Timothy about an order within the church which he was to adhere to.
      1. **Hebrews 10:21** – Jesus is the High Priest over this house.
      2. **Hebrews 8:3-6** – This house, or sanctuary, is the figure of the shadow that was the tabernacle, **which was to be made according to a pattern shown by God – an order from God**. (*God has given an order for the church*.)
   3. **If God has an ORDER for His church, how does the concept of denominationalism work – *has as much disorder as Corinth had with regard to spiritual gifts.***
10. **For everything God has given an order. He has intelligently designed everything to function in a certain way, and has revealed the divine order to man. All is found in the scriptures.**
11. There Must Be Order (*If God is a God of order, and we are His children who have been revealed the order of God, then there must be order among us. We must be orderly according to God’s requirements.*)
12. Order Required in History
    1. **Noah** – **Genesis 6:13-15a** – God told Noah to make an ark, and gave him specific instructions. **(v. 22** – Noah followed all of God’s instructions.)
    2. **Moses** – **Numbers 20:7-12** – A second time where God brought water from the rock, Moses disobeyed the direct commands of God. (He was without order!)
       1. **(v. 8)** – Take the rod. Speak to the rock.
       2. **(v. 9, 11)** – He took the rod. He struck the rock.
       3. **He disobeyed the DIVINE ORDER!**
       4. **(v. 12)** – He failed to regard God as holy in his failure to act according to God’s order.
       5. **What about the circumstances? Was it fair for God to punish him like that?**
          1. **(v. 1a)** – After being sentenced to wonder 40 years in the wilderness for a lack of faith when the spies were sent in, they finally approached the very same place. (**Through all that time they complained to Moses, and the land they approached was sure to remind Moses of their lack of faith previous when the spies were sent in.**)
          2. **(v. 1b)** – Miriam, Moses’ sister, had recently died. (His emotions were sure to have been at an all-time high.)
          3. *Perhaps his emotions, and all the surrounding events led him to strike the rock instead of speak in his frustration.*
          4. **IT DOES NOT MATTER. GOD REQUIRES ORDER, AND WE MUST CONTROL OURSELVES SO AS TO CONFORM TO THAT ORDER.**
    3. **God required order among His people then, and He requires order now! 🡪**
13. Order Required Now
    1. **2 Thessalonians 2:15** – The apostolic traditions must not be compromised. They must be kept. **WE MUST HOLD FAST TO THEM**.
       1. **3:6** – Paul commanded that they withdraw from those who walk ***“disorderly.”***
       2. **There must be orderliness!**
    2. **John 4:24** – Jesus indicated that worship must be orderly!
       1. **Spirit** – God wants all our heart, soul, and mind. (Sincere worship)
       2. **Truth** – According to the revealed truth, or order of worship!
    3. **Titus 1:5** – Paul left Titus in Crete to set things in order. (**There is an order in the church established by God, and we must conform to it.**)
    4. **Jude 3** – Contending for the faith is contending for order!
       1. ***“Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40)***.
       2. What is decent? What is orderly? – **According to the order revealed in** ***“the faith.”***
    5. **Matthew 7:21-23** – Only those who submit to the order of Christ will be able to ***“enter the kingdom of heaven.”***
       1. **Lawlessness** – violation of law; without law. (***Law is order, and lawlessness is a state of disorder.)***
       2. ***“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say” (Luke 6:46)?***
    6. **God is not relaxed concerning these matter of importance. He is A God of Order, AND WE MUST FOLLOW THAT ORDER!**

**Conclusion**

1. The world wants us to believe that God does not care what we do, or how we do it.
2. We must reject that notion, for the scripture clearly reveals that God is **A God of Order**.
3. **If this is the case, then we must submit to His order regarding everything!**