**5th, 12th May 2023 Sungai Ara Gospel Hall (2.4.2017)
Practical Pointers on Participation**

**at the Lord’s Supper. I Cor. Ch. 14**

**Part 1:**

Intro. The Importance of the Lord’s Supper.

* It is **O**ne of **O**nly Two **O**rdinances given to the Church: It and Baptism.

The **C**ontext of a Public **C**hurch Gathering I Cor. Chs. 11-14

 **C**hrist is Head in the **C**hurch – I Cor. 11:1-16

 **C**onduct at the Lord’s Supper – I Cor. 11:17-34

 **C**hurch – 10 occurrences: 11:18, 22, 28; 14:4, 5, 12, 19, 23, 28, 35

 ***C****ome together* – 7 occurrences: 11:17, 18, 20, 33, 34; 14:23, 26

* It **C**omes with an **O**rder to be **O**bserved in an **O**rderly way.

I Cor. 11:28-29 – ***L****et a man examine himself,*

 *and so* ***L****et him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

 [**L**est], *he that eateth and drinketh unworthily,*

 *…eateth and drinketh damnation to himself,*

 *not discerning the Lord’s body.*

* I Cor. 14:40 – ***L****et all things be done decently and in order.*

I Cor. 14:33 – *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace,*

 *as in all churches of the saints.*

I Cor. 14:34 – ***L****et your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.*

**I. Principles of an Orderly Church Gathering.**

**II. Principles that Regulate Practices in Participation**

 **in a Public Gathering at a local Church – I Cor. Ch. 14**

**I. Principles of an Orderly Church Gathering**

**A. I Cor. 11:3** – *But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ;*

 *and the head of the woman is the man; and* ***the head of Christ is God.*** Cf. Col. 1:18, 19

**1**. The **R**ights in the Godhead:

The Father is God – I Cor. 8:6; Gal. 1:1, 3; etc.

The Son is God – Heb. 1:8; cf. Jn. 10:30; Phil. 2:6-8

The Spirit is God – Acts 5:3, 4

1. The **R**oles in the Godhead:

The Sender is the Head. Jn. 13:16

The Father Sent the Son. Jn.12:49; 17:25; 20:21

The Father and Son Sent the Spirit – Jn. 15:26 cf. 12:49; 16:13-15

**3**. The **R**esponsibilities in the Godhead –

Jn. 15:26 – *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me:*

The Son to the Father –

Lk. 22:42 – *Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me:*

*nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done*.

 The Spirit to the Son –

 Jn. 16:13-15 – *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.*

*He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

*All things that the Father hath are Mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

 At the End – I Cor. 15:28 – *And when all things shall be subdued unto Him,*

*then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*

**B. I Cor. 11:3 –** *But I would have you know, that* ***the head of every man is Christ****;*

 *and the head of the woman is the man; and the Head of Christ is God.*

Cf. Col. 1:18 – *And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning,*

 *the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence*

1. The **R**ights of the Children – Equal with Christ: Jn. 1:12; I Jn. 3:1; Heb. 2:10-13
2. The **R**oles – Christ is the Head of the Church – Eph. 1:22; 5:23; Col. 1:18
3. The **R**esponsibilities – He is Lord – Obey! Jn. 13:13 cf. Lk. 6:46

**C. I Cor. 11:3 –** *But I would have you know, that the Head of every man is Christ;*

 *and* ***the head of the woman is the man****; and the Head of Christ is God.*

1. The **R**ights of God’s Children (Men and Women) – All are equal:

 I Cor. 12:12-14; Gal. 3:28; I Cor. 11:11, 12

1. The **R**oles – Men to lead, Women to submit: I Cor. 11:7-12; Eph. 5:23, 24
2. The **R**esponsibilities: Men & Women: I Cor. 11: 4-6,13-15; 14:34, 35; I Tim. 2:11, 12

Husbands to Love – Eph. 5:25, 28

Wives to Submit – Eph. 5:22

**1 Cor. 14:40 – *Let all things be done decently and in order.***

**Part II –**

**II. Principles that Regulate Practices in Participation**

**in a Public Gathering at a local Church – I Cor. Ch. 14**

The **C**ontext of a Public **C**hurch Gathering I Cor. Chs. 11-14

**C**hrist is Head in the **C**hurch – I Cor. 11:1-16

**C**onduct at the Lord’s Supper – I Cor. 11:17-34

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I Cor. 14:1 – *Follow after* ***L****ove… desire spiritua(ities) (esp.) that ye may prophesy.*

*He that speaketh in a tongue...... pray that that he may interpret*.

**1. A Re*-application* of Terms:**

*Love* => to govern conduct (cf. I Cor. 13)

*prophesy speak in tongues…* => public participation;

*With interpretation* => participation with outside assistance;

*speak in tongues w/out* *interpretation* => **S**peak **S**ilently to God or **P**articipate **P**ublicly

 for the **P**rofit of all.

**2**. Everything done must **E**dify, **E**xhort or **E**ncourage. 14:3-5

 *He that prophesieth speaketh .. to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

 *He that speaketh in a tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church*

No self-edification (except in silent worship!):

No personal “favourites” or self-testimonies;

No insistence on participating just because of self-preparation.

**E**vidence of the Spirit’s Leading. 14:6 *What shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation,*

*or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?*

**3**. The **R**esult of **R**evelation from the Word, **S**cripted from **S**cripture to **P**rofit the **P**eople.

 [Ct. **D**ependence on modern **D**evices today!]

 **R**umination 945 for the **R**emembrance of our Lord for March 5, 2023
The **T**heme: ***The Cloud***
The **T**ext: *Behold, He cometh with clouds*. Rev. 1:7

**E**nsure clarity, audibility and simplicity – I Cor. 14:7-9

***E****xcept they give a distinction in the sounds,*

*how shall it be known what is piped or harped? ...*

***E****xcept ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood,*

 *how shall it be known what is spoken for ye shall speak into the air.*

**4**. To be understood, **B**e **S**imple in vocabulary,

**S**ensible (logical) in presentation,

audible in **S**peech – distinct in pronunciation and enunciation.

**S**peak to people, not to **S**elf or into **S**pace.

 **B**e **C**onscious of **C**ompetition I Cor. 14:10:

*There are...many kinds of voices in the world,.. none...is without signification*. 14:11:

*Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice I shall be a barbarian*

*and he that speaketh a barbarian unto me.*

**5.** Be wary of competition from extraneous noises – speak louder, clearer or repeat.

**6.** Use words, concepts and terms you yourself understand, and which are understood by all.

Do not speak Greek, metaphorically or literally.

Control Zealousness…Enlist help

14:12 – *Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek (to)... excel to the edifying of the church.*

14:13 *Let him that speaketh in a tongue pray that he may interpret.*

**7**. Gifts have their places – **S**ay or do the right thing at the right time.

 **S**eek to excel in your gift to the edification of the church.

**8**. Pray and **E**nlist help to **E**nsure that what is said is heard and understood.

Use mikes to “interpret” if you are inaudible.

Be **S**pirit-led, **S**pirited and **S**ensible

14:14 – *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

**9**. Follow what is going on and exercise your gift as led by the Spirit accordingly.

Follow the **T**hought, **T**hinking and **T**heme in focus at the **T**ime.

Do not close the hymn **B**ook/**B**ible!

 *I will pray with the spirit, and… with… understanding also:*

 *I will sing with the spirit, and ...* with... understanding I Cor. 14:15

**10.** **S**pirit and **S**ense go together. Think and understand when worshipping and singing.

Ruminate and **R**eflect on the words.

**E**dification of others is the **E**nd-motive of **E**xemplary participation. 14:16

***E****lse when thou shalt bless ..how shall ... the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?* 14:17

*For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.*

**11.** All should say “*Amen*”. Participants must worship on behalf of, be intelligible,

audible and clear to “the unlearned” so that he/she too can say, Amen.

**12.** Fluency, keenness, zealousness, “good impression” may not edify others, if self-motivated.

 Be precise and concise in worship. I Cor. 14:18, 19 *in the church I had rather speak five words... I might teach others also…*

*in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.* 11:20-22

**13.** Self-profit is not church-edifying.

If self-profit is not in line with the profit of the church, keep it to self.

**14.** **S**elect not **S**ensational **S**ign gifts. Be **S**piritually Matured Men.

Do Not Be **I**rrelevant or **I**rreverent. 14:23-25

*he is convinced of all... and so falling down .. he will worship God,*

*and report that God is in you*

**15**. Be orderly with controlled exercise of gifts, leading others to **R**evere God

and to the **R**emembrance of Christ 11:24, 25

*Let it be one by one…two or three* 14:26-27

*How is it...every one ...hath a psalm...a doctrine...a tongue ...a revelation...(etc)*

*Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak... let it be by two, or at the most by three.*

**16.** The self-**P**repared must not insist on **P**articipating in a **P**articular **P**art of a service. Take your turn, do not “compete” and “jump in”.

Allow Pauses. Only men are to lead. Do not take part more than necessary.

Be **S**ilent, **S**peak to **S**elf and to God 14:28 *But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church;*

*and let him speak to himself, and to God.* 11:29 *Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.*

**17**. If he cannot be heard (**S**oft-Spoken, no mike, etc.) keep **S**ilent.

 There is a place for silent worship, but do worship.

 Cf. **S**isters and their **S**ilent worship.

**18.** **S**peak and take part but do not be **S**ensitive –

listen to **C**onstructive **C**riticisms from others.

 Be **S**till and know God or Be **S**ilent as the Grave? 14:30 *If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.*

**19.** Give chance to others to take part. Do not jump in. Allow pauses.

 Do not Monopolise. It is not **M**essage-time!

 Silence can be **M**eaningful: *diam-diam ubi berisi,* *diam-diam besi berkarat!*

 **L**ead, **L**isten and **L**earn. 14:31 *For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, ..all... comforted.* (*encouraged*, NRSV)

**20.** Participants **L**ead but they also need to **L**imit themselves

 and **L**isten to others that all may **L**earn, and all may be comforted.

 Follow what is **S**aid, read or **S**ung.

 Be **S**ubject One to Another 14:32, 33

 *And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

 *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace*

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**21.** Participants are **S**pirit- and **S**elf-Controlled. They do not go out of Control!

All should learn from, give way to, and be edified by others.

Let there be order in worship.

Conclusion:

Finally,

**Remember the Lord:**

1 Corinthians 11:24-25

*And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you:* ***this do in remembrance of Me.***

*After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood:* ***this do ye,*** *as oft as ye drink**it,* ***in remembrance of Me.***

**Respect the Lord**

I Corinthians14:40 –

 ***Let*** *all things be done decently and in order.*

**Revere the Lord**

1 Corinthians 11:28 –

*But* ***let*** *a man examine himself, and so* ***let*** *him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

**this do in remembrance of Me.**

For those interested in…

Viewing the Powerpoint Presentation again;

Listening to the Study again

And/Or Want a full Outline of the Study,

 Please visit: [www.berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

**Not delivered from here onwards**

**S**isters’ **S**ilent Worship and **S**ubmission,

I Cor. 14:33b, 34 *As in all churches...Let your women keep silence in the churches...*

 *they are commanded to be under obedience or in submission,* NIV

**22**. **S**isters to **E**ngage in **S**ilent worship (cf. vv. 28, 30) and to **E**xhibit **S**igns of being “under obedience”, i.e. **S**ilence & **S**ubmission. cf. 11:3, 10

A **C**ommand under the law and a **C**ustom in all **C**hurches. 14:33 cf. 11:16

**A Shame!** 14:35

It is a shame for women to speak in the church.

**23.** ‘***S****hame* to **S**peak in church”, 11:35;

 “*shame*” without head covering, 11:6;

 [for men, “*shame*” with long hair. 11:14]

 Ct. Christ not ashamed! – Heb. 2:11

 *Let him acknowledge* 14:36-40

 *Came the word of God... from you... unto you only?* ...

 *A prophet, or spiritual..*

 *Let him acknowledge that the things that I write ... are the commandments of the Lord.*

**24.** These thoughts are not Pauline-**C**hauvinistic,

 **C**orinth-**C**onfined,

 **C**ultural, **C**ontroversial (11:16), or

 **C**ircumstantial but **C**hurch-oriented (11:16) and

 **C**ommandments of the Lord

 as the prophet and the spiritual will acknowledge.

**I**gnore, Be **I**gnorant or Be **I**gnored! 14:36-40

*But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

*[Or as NIV, If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.]*

**25.** One can **C**hoose to be ignorant or to ignore and suffer the **C**onsequences,

i.e. **C**ontinue to be ignorant or be ignored.

**F**orbid not…**F**ollow 14:39

*Therefore.. covet to prophesy, and to forbid not speak with tongues.*

**26.** Therefore, **F**orbid not any to take part, seek to participate but regulate it.

To be orderly is to **F**ollow the Principles and Practices, regulations and guidelines laid down in I Cor. Chs. 11-14.

Do **P**articipate in **P**ublic Gatherings

**BUT**…

*Let all things be done unto edifying.* 14:26

*Let all things be done decently and in order.* 14:40

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