

SERMON NOTES

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“ORDER IN THE CHURCH”

*God is not the author of confusion but of peace . . .
Let all things be done decently and in order. (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40)*

“God’s Plan for Church Government: Someone to Rule!”

In about A.D. 51, the Apostle Paul, who was on his second missionary trip, came to the city of Corinth in Greece. Corinth had long had a reputation for immorality and materialism. In fact, when Plato was talking about a prostitute, he referred to her as a *Corinthian girl!* Aristophanes, a Greek playwright coined the word *corinthianize*, which referred to fornication. In 146 B.C., the Romans destroyed the city and it ceased to exist for a hundred years. In 46 B.C., however, Julius Caesar rebuilt it, and it was to the new city that Paul brought the *Good News* of salvation through Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, the city’s reputation for worldly living continued.

Paul stayed in Corinth for about two years and founded a strong church there; however, after his departure, things began to deteriorate. Many became immune to immorality within the fellowship, they were materialistic and self-centered, and at least a few women became a divisive element in the church. Paul knew that something had to be done to turn things around. So, while in Ephesus, he wrote them a letter in which he boldly exposed their sin and called them to repentance!

It was in that letter that Paul told the church that everything must be done “*decently and in order.*” (1 Corinthians 14:40) His admonition to

the Corinthians will be our theme for the next three weeks as we examine God’s plan for *Church government*.

I. Without _____, we are in danger of _____.

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II. God is the Author of _____. (Genesis 1:27-28; 3:16; Daniel 4:17, 25; Romans 13:1-5; Ephesians 4:11-13)

III. _____ are for man’s _____ and God’s _____. (Matthew 23:37-39; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Hebrews 13:17)