

## II. Discussion

- A. Watch for the things that disrupt order: pride, partiality, jealousy, and the other personal sin involvements that make any of us think we are more important than the totality of the body.
- B. Establish the right priority....or, if you do not like the word "priority" the line of achievement. 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 will help us by stressing the glory of God (what makes Him look big!) in vs. 31, avoiding unnecessary offense in vs 32, encouraging others and reaching out with the Gospel in vs 33. This is largely a matter of thought and if we think it long enough it might become a habit. But too often we only think of ourselves and then incidentally of God and others and that is ruinous to good order.
- C. Follow the right examples. 1 Corinthians 11:1 and Philippians 3:17 not in order to please men but to please God. We follow the Lord primarily but we see His working in the lives of persons such as Paul and they provide for us living vignettes and aspects of measurement.
- D. Stay a servant...not a slave in the sense spoken of in John 15 but a servant...gifted and perhaps put in office, but a servant...one who will not allow his personal preferences to promote him above His master. Both in our goals and our practices and the fulfillment of our duties, this is an important watchword.

III, Conclusion: Order is the product of a God directed life. There are levels where it may be successfully mandated but the church is not one of these. Order depends on our acceptance of the practical authority of the Scripture to tell us about the values and procedures in life.

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## MESSAGE # 5: AUTHORITY IN FUNCTION

Biblical Passages: 1 Peter 4:1-11, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12