

God Is Not The Author Of Confusion

A Teaching Outline

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Confusion

Confusion defined: To make things so they cannot be distinguished. To bring to disorder, to perplex or render indistinct or to throw the mind into disorder.

God is not a God of disorder

1 Cor. 14:33

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the other churches.

Women are given spiritual gifts and are encouraged to exercise them in the body of Christ. Women have much to contribute and can participate in worship services.

In the Corinthian culture, women were not allowed to confront men in public. Apparently some of the women who had become Christians thought that their Christian freedom gave them the right to question the men in public worship.

This was causing division in the church. In addition, women of that day did not receive formal religious education as did the men.

Women may have been raising questions in the worship services that could have been answered at home without disrupting the services.

Paul was asking the women not to flaunt their Christian freedom during worship. The purpose of Paul's words was to promote unity, not to teach about women's roles in the church.

Don't believe everyone who claims to speak by God's Spirit.

1 John 4:1

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

"Do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God" means that we shouldn't believe everything we hear just because someone says it is a message from God.

There are many ways to test teachers to see if their message is truly from the Lord. One is to check to see if their words match what God says in the Bible.

Other tests include their commitment to the body of believers (2:19), their lifestyles (3:23, 24), and the fruit of their ministries (4:6).

But the most important test of all, says John, is what they believe about Christ. Do they teach that Jesus is fully God and fully man?

Our world is filled with voices claiming to speak for God. Give them these tests to see if they are indeed speaking God's truth.

The human heart is deceitful and wicked.

Jeremiah 17:9

"The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"

God makes it clear why we sin—it's a matter of the heart. Our heart is inclined toward sin from the time we are born. It is easy to fall into the routine of forgetting and forsaking God.

But we can still choose whether or not to continue in sin. We can yield to a specific temptation, or we can ask God to help us resist temptation when it comes.

Godly compromise is like polluting a fountain.

Proverbs 25:26

If the godly compromise with the wicked, it is like polluting a fountain or muddying a spring.

To compromise with the wicked means setting aside your standards of right and wrong. No one is helped by someone who compromises with the wicked.

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

John 14:26

But when the Father sends the Counselor as my representative—and by the Counselor I mean the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you.

Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would help them remember what he had been teaching them. This promise ensures the validity of the New Testament.

The disciples were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and teachings, and the Holy Spirit helped them remember without taking away their individual perspectives. We can be confident that the Gospels are accurate records of what Jesus taught and did. The Holy Spirit can help us in the same way.

As we study the Bible, we can trust him to plant truth in our mind, convince us of God's will, and remind us when we stray from it.

Seek and you will find.

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Jesus tells us to persist in pursuing God. People often give up after a few halfhearted efforts and conclude that God cannot be found. But knowing God takes faith, focus, and follow-through, and Jesus assures us that we will be rewarded. Don't give up in your efforts to seek God. Continue to ask him for more knowledge, patience, wisdom, love, and understanding. He will give them to you.

The natural man cannot know the things of the Spirit.

1 Cor. 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Non-Christians cannot understand spiritual truths, and they cannot grasp the concept that God's Spirit lives in believers. Don't expect most people to approve of or understand your decision to follow Christ. It all seems so silly to them. Just as a tone-deaf person cannot appreciate fine music, the person who rejects Christ cannot understand truths from God's Spirit. With the lines of communication broken, he or she won't be able to hear what God is saying to him or her.

We must not remain silent, however, using others' difficulty in understanding as an excuse. We are still one of God's communication channels. We must be alert to opportunities. Another person's question may be evidence that God's Spirit is drawing him or her to the point of decision.

God has revealed the deep things of God.

1 Cor. 2:9-10

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. [10] But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, and the deep things of God.

We cannot imagine all that God has in store for us, both in this life and for eternity. He will create a new heaven and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1), and we will live with him forever. Until then, his Holy Spirit comforts and guides us.

Knowing the wonderful and eternal future that awaits us gives us hope and courage to press on in this life, to endure hardship, and to avoid giving in to temptation. This world is not all there is. The best is yet to come.

"God's deep secrets" refers to God's unfathomable nature and his wonderful plan—Jesus' death and resurrection—and to the promise of salvation, revealed only to those who believe that what God says is true.

Those who believe in Christ's death and resurrection and put their faith in him will know all they need to know to be saved. This knowledge, however, can't be grasped by even the wisest people unless they accept God's message. All who reject God's message are foolish, no matter how wise the world thinks they are.

The Lord confused the languages at Babel.

Genesis 11:7-9

Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. [8] So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

[9] Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

The tower of Babel was a great human achievement, a wonder of the world. But it was a monument to the people themselves rather than to God.

We may build monuments to ourselves (expensive clothes, big house, and fancy car, important job) to call attention to our achievements.

These may not be wrong in themselves, but when we use them to give us identity and self-worth, they take God's place in our lives.

We are free to develop in many areas, but we are not free to think we have replaced God. What "towers" have you built in your life?

The Preaching of the cross is the power of God to those who are saved.

1 Cor. 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Paul's gift was preaching, and that's what he did. Christian ministry should be a team effort; no preacher or teacher is a complete link between God and people, and no individual can do all that the apostles did. We must be content to operate within the gifts God has given to us,

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print

