

An Exercise in Hermeneutics

Instructions: Put a “C” beside those items that are “cultural” and a “P” beside those items that are “permanent.” Count up the total number of P’s. Think about *why* you made the decisions you made.

1. Greet one another with a holy kiss. (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Th 5:26)
2. Be baptized. (Acts 2:38)
3. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. (Matt 5:29)
4. Turn the other cheek. (Matt 5:39)
5. Give to beggars. (Matt 5:42)
6. Love your enemies. (Matt 5:44)
7. Abstain from fornication. (Acts 15:29)
8. Lay hands on people when commissioning them for a specific task. (Acts 6:6; 13:2)
9. Wash one another’s feet. (John 13:14)
10. Lift your hands in prayer. (1 Tim 2:8)
11. Women should not have braided hair, gold pearls, or costly attire. (1 Tim 2:9)
12. Permit no woman to teach or to have authority over men. (1 Tim 2:12)
13. Support widows at least 60 years old with the church budget. (1 Tim 5:9)
14. Pay elders. (1 Tim 5:17-18)
15. Ministers should rebuke publicly elders who persist in sin. (1 Tim 5:20)
16. Drink wine for your stomach and frequent ailments. (1 Tim 5:22)
17. Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. (James 1:19)
18. Show no favoritism. (James 2:1-7)
19. Do not make any oaths. (James 5:12)
20. Anoint the sick with oil. (James 5:14)
21. A man should pray and prophesy with his head covered. (1 Cor 11:4)
22. A woman should pray and prophesy with her head covered. (1 Cor 11:5, 10)
23. Long hair on men is shame. (1 Cor 11:14)
24. Take the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus. (1 Cor 11:24)
25. Take the Lord’s Supper as part of a meal. (1 Cor 11:17-34)
26. Take the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7)
27. Use unleavened bread for communion. (Luke 22:1, 7, 13, 19)
28. Use wine for communion. (Luke 22:12)
29. Take communion in a large upper room. (Luke 22:12)
30. Use 1 cup for communion. (Luke 22:17)
31. Take communion on Passover. (Luke 22:7, 14-23)
32. Sometimes take the cup before the bread. (Luke 22:17-19; 1 Cor 10:16, 21)
33. Have seven deacons. (Acts 6:3)
34. Go to the synagogue on Saturday. (Acts 13:14, 42, 44)
35. Have all things in common with the church. (Acts 2:44)
36. Pray at fixed times. (Acts 3:1)
37. Take formal religious vows. (Acts 18:18)
38. Preach in Jewish synagogues. (Acts 14:1)
39. Cast lots to make decisions. (Acts 1:26)
40. Ministers should appoint elders. (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
41. Meet in house churches. (Acts 12:12; 16:40; Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19; Col 4:15)
42. Don’t become angry. (Matt 5:22)
43. Earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially prophecy. (1 Cor 14:1, 5)
44. End prayers with “Amen.” (1 Cor 14:16)
45. Each member should bring a song/lesson to share during worship. (1 Cor 14:26)
46. Women should keep silent in the churches. (1 Cor 14:34)
47. Preach two by two. (Mark 6:7)
48. Keep yourself pure. (1 Tim 5:22)
49. Unless you are born again, you cannot enter heaven. (John 3:3)
50. Owe no one anything. (Rom 13:8)
51. Advise married couples to stay married and not divorce. (1 Cor 7:10-11)
52. Advise engaged couples not to get married. (1 Cor 7:25-27, 37-38)
53. Call the church “The Way.” (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22)
54. Call the church the “church of Christ.” (Rom 16:16)
55. Sing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Col 3:16)
56. Wives, be subject to husbands. (Eph 5:22)
57. Slaves, obey your masters. (Eph 6:5-8)
58. Give thanks in all. (1 Thess 5:18)
59. Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thess 5:19)
60. When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face. (Matt 6:17)