Not A God Of Confusion
1 Corinthians 14:31-33

Objective: Give people confidence in their ability to know God’s will and serve Him.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:26-33.

Memory: 1 Corinthians 14:33, “… God is not a God of disorder but of peace.”

Introduction:
1. People often have a tendency to make things more complicated than they are or need to be. 
2. Folks have a tendency to approach religion as a giant puzzle. Pit this verse against that verse. 
3. It doesn’t have to be worked out as a Rubik’s cube. Don’t need to be fearful about missing some complicated little part of the puzzle and thus missing heaven. Some things can and should be simply understood in principle. All facts will fit Truth and help our understanding, but rather than get bogged down and entangled in ideas and histories, some things …

We ought to understand things from the NATURE of God. (WHAT?)

We have many simple truth descriptions about God that should give us a great deal of insight into many important aspects of life and religion. “God is love” says a lot about how we should live and approach things. “God is truth” does as well. God “Almighty”, all knowing, all seeing, and the list could go on for those who earnestly seek to know and understand about God. 1 Corinthians 14:33; states clearly and simply that “… God is not a God of disorder but of peace.” New American Standard translates; “God is not a God of confusion but of peace,” KJV translates; “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.”

This is a simple truth that ought guide us in our understanding of life and religion as we work to know God and live in a manner pleasing to Him. It has some clear and important ramifications.

Consider first of all, the simple thought that if confusion and disorder do not derive from God, then as we look about the world and as we struggle to understand religion in general and Christianity specifically, I. Confusion / Disorder must have another source.

A. God stands for “peace”. (That’s His nature, His desire.)
1. But that is not what a lot of people think of when they think of church. Frankly, and regrettably, that is not what a lot of churches are like.
2. What is the source of stress between denominations? It’s not God!
3. What is the source of stress and conflict in your own heart as you try to understand doctrines, about what to do in a particular situation, about fellowshipping other groups, about how to treat Moslems or Homosexuals? The confusion does not come from God.
4. God simply stands for truth and righteousness. He is NOT about confusion and disorder – there is another “author” of all that stuff.
5. Literally the word (’ακαταστασις) means “not according to stability. So God does stand for the opposite; that is; God stands for “peace” or “order”, stability.
6. Consider a few verses that show what God wants for His people (us);
   b. Romans 16:20, “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”
   c. Philippians 4:9, “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”
   d. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”
   e. Hebrews. 13:20, “May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”
   f. Can you feel the comfort, confidence, stability God wants for you?

B. The source of disorder / confusion is Sin, Satan and Self!
1. Understand then that denominational / religious confusion does not come from God. It comes from men with differing ideas of their own. Differing emphasis.

2. It comes from the pride of men. Pride is really just stubbornness. I want my way. I want it to be the way my parents taught, or the way I have always done.

3. I don’t want it to be the way you present because then I would have to change.

4. Perhaps a lot of this confusion stems from sheer bone laziness of people who refuse to seek, search, study, learn or consider. Or minds closed to greater understanding and growth.

5. Sometimes folks may have truth, but aren’t open enough to see they don’t have the whole truth.

6. Sometimes folks are indeed in error – with wrong ideas and wrong concepts, and there they do indeed need correcting with great patience and careful instruction-or separating from it they hold rebelliously to error that can lead folks to hell.

7. If confusion stems from pride or selfishness or rebellion, it is SIN, pure and simple.

8. God is, indeed, capable of bringing confusion. When He does, it is because of man’s sin.
   a. Tower of Babel; Genesis 11:9. “That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.”
   b. Enemy armies. Exodus 14:24. “During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”
   c. Deuteronomy 28:20. “The LORD will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him.”
   d. Micah 7:4. “The best of them is like a brier, the most upright worse than a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen has come, the day God visits you. Now is the time of their confusion.” I hope that you don’t fall into category with any of these enemies of God!
   e. Acts 19:32. “The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there.”
   f. The sin of man is the reason. Man’s arrogance. Man’s opposition to God. Man’s self-assertion. This is NOT what God brings to those who try to follow Him. His nature is peace.

Another very pertinent concept that derives clearly from this truth that God is not the author or source of confusion but rather a God of peace is that

II. God’s will must be readily understandable. (Not confusing)

A. The Gospel demands are simple.
   1. It doesn’t take Einstein to understand what God is looking for. Simple children can get it!
   2. In fact Jesus tells us, “…unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3) It is supposed to be that easy.
   3. God is looking for His rightful place as Creator, as Creator of Heaven and earth and all that is in it. He is God. I am not. Neither are you. He leads, we follow.
   4. God wants to love and be loved. That is His character and essence.
   5. God wants to guide us to eternal security. Help us evade spiritual pitfalls.
   6. God is holy and pure and cannot abide evil. All evil must go.
   7. God is making man in His image. Love. Light. Truth. Holiness. We either comply or miss out.
   8. The only way to get right is through Christ – God came in the flesh to show us and help us.

B. Doctrines should not be confusing.
   1. Problems arise when we try to side-step what Scripture says.
      a. When it says be baptized, why argue and try to find ways so it doesn’t mean what it says?
      b. Why stress over the full details of “predestination” theories, of who can be saved or not – when it says evangelize, evangelize; when it says be careful to not fall away, be careful to not fall away.
      c. How about all the ins and outs of marriage, divorce and re-marriage. Marry for life and learn to get along. If a problem arises, take it from where you are and follow Christ’s teachings from where you are. Be Christian every minute.
2. Elaborate and confusing explanations are probably wrong. Simple and orderly explanations are probably best, or at least adequate. God is NOT a God of confusion.

3. If we don’t fully understand all the psychology behind loving your enemy etc., just do what it says and trust to Him to take care of things.

4. We simply are not in charge anyway and don’t really need all the answers. “Church would be less confusing if we simply let God be in charge; A lot of questions don’t really need answers.
   a. What happened to faithful people between the death and resurrection of Christ and the “initiation” of the church on the Day of Pentecost? God knows and He can handle it – not your jurisdiction anyhow?
   b. How can a loving God destroy the Amalekites? Trust God. Must be they needed it it for good reason.
   c. Is Luke 16 (Rich man and Lazarus) true story or only a parable? Just learn the message from it.
   d. Can I figure out when the END comes from the book of Daniel? No, it comes when the Boss decides.
   e. Is “George” genuinely repentant and therefore really forgiven, or is he pretending? You don’t have to be the judge or to know. You are not in charge, God is! (And He knows and He will take care of it)
   f. Exactly what punishment will people face in hell? And for how long? Not the issue. That is God’s business. Our part is to avoid it! That is simple and not confusing at all!

5. Simply read what God says (Bible) to gain understanding of God, walk in His light and let the Holy Spirit assist you. Trust God.

C. The nature and “feel” of “church” should be “peace” and “stability”.
   1. That sounds like fun. Church should be “joy” not “strife”.
   2. When “church” is scrambled and full of strife, there is a problem.
   3. There is a place for disagreements and room for differing opinions and understandings, but this should not create strife. There really is no place for those who have “…an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction…” (1 Timothy 6:4)
   4. Strife frequently generates from a “power struggle” or false, manipulative motives. Galatians 5:20 teaches that such “discord” (relating to confusion and disorder) derives from the flesh, not from following the Spirit of God.
   5. Sometimes people want to be “judge” and make all the decisions. We don’t really need to know all the answers, or even to render judgment on people’s eternal destiny. That is God’s role. Simply and confusingly true. We can KNOW if folks are spiritual leaders or not, if they are spiritually healthy to hang around with or follow, but we don’t need to know what God is going to do with that other “servant”. Not supposed to know. He is Judge.
   6. If people could simply do what they are supposed to do themselves, and simply leave God in charge, church could be a lot less confusing.

So What?

There are so many denominations and religious groups that sometimes folks loose heart and stop looking for truth, stop seeking God. It just seems too confusing. Folks, God is not the author of confusion. It really is so simple a child can follow it. Simple compliance with God’s expectations is not complicated.

Closing Prayer:
Not A God Of Confusion
1 Corinthians 14:31-33

Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:26-33. Memory: 1 Corinthians 14:33

“... God is not a God of disorder but of peace.”

We ought to understand things from the NATURE of God. 1 Corinthians 14:33
A simple truth that ought guide us in our understanding of life and religion.

I. Confusion / disorder must have another source.
A. God stands for “peace”.

B. The source of disorder / confusion is Sin, Satan and Self!

II. God’s will must be readily understandable. (Not confusing)
A. The Gospel demands are simple.
   Matthew 18:3

B. Doctrines should not be confusing.

C. The nature and “feel” of “church” should be “peace” and “stability”.
   1 Timothy 6:4

So What?
Simple compliance with God’s expectations is not complicated.