

FINDING ORDER IN THE CHAOS

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

GOD HAS AN EXPECTATION OF PROPER MOTIVES WHEN WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

- “What then, brothers and sisters? Whenever you come together, each one has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Everything is to be done for building up.” (1 Corinthians 14:26)
- **The unfortunate reality is that many Christians have been taught to attend church gatherings with the sole focus on receiving rather than contributing.**
- **Our focus when we gather for worship should be to glorify the Lord, edify the church (people), and evangelize the lost.**

GOD HAS AN EXPECTATION OF DIVINE ORDER IN CHURCH GATHERINGS

- “27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, there are to be only two, or at the most three, each in turn, and let someone interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, that person is to keep silent in the church and speak to himself and God. 29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should evaluate. 30 But if something has been revealed to another person sitting there, the first prophet should be silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that everyone may learn and everyone may be encouraged. 32 And the prophets’ spirits are subject to the prophets, 33 since God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should be silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak, but are to submit themselves, as the law also says. 35 If they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home, since it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. 36 Or did the word of God originate from you, or did it come to you only?” (1 Corinthians 14:27-36)

- **Chaos in the church interferes with unity that God expects from His followers.**
- *“Spiritual gifts were intended by God to bring harmony not disharmony, to bring unity not disunity, to be a rallying point not a dividing line.” – Dr. Daniel Akin*
- *“But everything is to be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)*
- **Just as in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit operate in divine unity, the church must follow that example so that God’s kingdom work is effective.**

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GOD WILL IGNORE THOSE WHO IGNORE HIS DIVINE ORDER

- *“If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, he should recognize that what I write to you is the Lord’s command. 38 If anyone ignores this, he will be ignored.” (1 Corinthians 14:37)*
- **Ignoring God’s instructions to maintain order and unity in the Church gatherings actually results in the opposite of what the disobedient are claiming to accomplish.**
- **A person who ignores God’s divine order and instructions experiences a breach in their relationship with God.**
- **The wisest thing we can do as Christians is to believe in and adhere to God’s word as authoritative.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- According to verse 26, what kinds of contributions were people bringing when the church gathered, and what was the purpose of those contributions?
- What specific instructions does Paul give in verses 27–33 regarding tongues and prophecy?
- What reason does Paul give in verse 33 for these instructions about order?
- How does Paul summarize his teaching about worship gatherings in verses 39–40?

Understanding

- When you come to a church gathering, do you tend to think more about what you will receive or what you can contribute? Why?
- How would our gatherings look different if everyone came with the mindset of building others up?
- Why do you think God places such a strong emphasis on order in worship rather than allowing complete freedom of expression?
- This passage highlights structure and authority in the church. Why is submission to God’s design important for unity and effectiveness?
- Verse 37 emphasizes recognizing God’s commands. Why is it sometimes difficult for people to submit to biblical instruction, especially when it challenges personal preferences?
- What is one practical way you can help create an environment of peace, unity, and encouragement when you gather with other believers?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

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