

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 14:20-32

- Paul has just shared how that everything we do in a Church setting should be for the edification of the body of Christ. The Word “**edify**” is an architecture word and simply means to build up, and in **V4** were told that those who speak in tongues edifies only themselves, but those who prophesy edifies the entire church.
- The reason is unless there’s another who’s interpreting no one understands, but when one prophesies whether its **foretelling** speaking of future events, or **forthtelling** speaking on what has already been written, the interpretation is given and the Church is edified, so that they can apply what’s been said to their lives.
- **V6** Revelation, Knowledge, Prophesying, Teaching, all these leads to understanding, for without these then you’re just speaking into the air **V9**. We need teaching in order for anything to be edifying, **V13-14** says whatever we do we need understanding.

V20-32

- **V20-22** the Corinthian church had an infatuation with speaking in tongues, and in their selfish desire to edify themselves at the expense of others in the church service, the Corinthians were showing themselves to be children in maturity. So, Paul is calling them to a higher calling, saying if they are going to be children, then be babies in malice, if you want to be immature then be that in evil, but in understanding be mature, grownups, wanting and desiring truth.
- **V21-22** he uses a history lesson as an example that they were all familiar with > **Is 28:11-12**, the prophet Isaiah pronounces judgment upon the people of Israel for rejecting God’s message spoken in their Hebrew language, so now they will hear another message spoken in an unknown tongue that was fulfilled when the Assyrians invaded Israel speaking a barbaric language and took them captive.
- **V22** tongues are for a sign not o believers bur for unbelievers > **Acts 2:1-11**- the Holy Spirit coming upon the believers causing them to speak in an unknown language the wonderful works of God to people who could understand but were unbelievers.

- Often you see this gift used by missionaries in countries and villages where they don't know the language, but God gives them the gift to communicate His truth in a tongue that they previously did not know or had not learned, and now can speak it.
- **V23-25** Paul goes on to say that exercising the gift in tongues in an immature way will also do damage to unbelievers who come into a church service and witness what is going on and think that believers are out of their minds. Our goal should be to advance the cause of Christ not stifle it, and yet without any interpretations that's exactly what will happen, and many of us have been witnesses of this very thing.
- Prophecy on the other hand whether through forthtelling the teaching of the Word of God, or foretelling the utterance of things to come, it produces both convincing and conviction as it exposes what is in man's heart, thus causing him to fall down on his face in worship to God, understanding that only God could have revealed this. I cannot tell you how many times I have thought who told the Pastor or have had others come to me and acknowledge how The Lord spoke to them in the message.
- **V26-28** this section is called "order in the church" as Paul shares how a church service should conduct itself while the spiritual gifts are being used. There should not be a whole church just randomly speaking out of turn saying they are being led by the Spirit, and yet that is exactly what the Corinthians were doing at their services
- Somebody would get up and quote or sing a Psalm, another has a special teaching, someone is speaking in a tongue, another giving a revelation, then someone sharing an interpretation. He says "**let all things be done for edification**" meaning this wasn't edifying, it was confusion, chaotic, as there was no order to the service.
- If anyone is speaking in a tongue it should be at the most three and someone should interpret, if there is no interpreter then no one should be speaking in an unknown tongue period! Its simple right, but how many churches ignore these scriptures?
- **V29-32** Prophecy while a person is speaking the others should be quiet, when God gives a revelation the speaker needs to be silent, if you all have a prophecy then share it but do it one by one that all may hear and learn and be encouraged.

- **V32** you had some who would say but I can't hold back what the Spirit is saying I must speak whether in turn or out of turn, we read the spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet, meaning God will not override His ordained way of doing things, so that is not God but something else that is motivating you to speak out of turn.