

L137 | I Corinthians | Tongues for the Unbeliever Outside the Church | I Cor. 14:13-25

I. Intro/Review:

- Follow after charity
 - Desire spiritual gifts but rather that you prophesy
- Prophecy and Tongues
 - Similarities
 - Gift given by the spirit
 - Differences
 - Tongues - speaketh in mysteries - Prophecy - speaketh to men
 - Tongues - self edification - Prophecy - edifieth the church
 - Tongues - speak into the air - Prophecy - speaketh to understanding (heart)
- Profit (v6), Life Giving Sound (v7), Signification (v10), Meaning (v11)

II. Preview:

1. Tongues is not a prayer language (v14-15)
 - Praying in the Spirit
2. Tongues is not a singing language (v15)
 - Singing in the Spirit
3. Tongues is not a blessing language (v16)
 - Giving thanks in the Spirit
4. Tongues for believers or unbelievers?
 - Paul in the church
 - Be men of understanding
 - The law and tongues
 - Tongues are a sign
5. Prophecy for unbelievers or believers?

III. Sermon:

Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.
{1 Corinthians 14:13}

- **"Wherefore"** - "seek to excel to the edifying of the church"
 - Tongues doesn't edify the church
- **"let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray"**

- "pray in tongues" - speaking in mysteries (no understanding for the speaker or the hearer, but God) (v2)
- "pray" here isn't praying in tongues, but praying for interpretation.
- **"that he may interpret."**
 - Unfold the meaning of what is spoken, explain in native language

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also:
{1 Corinthians 14:14-15a}

1. Tongues is not a prayer language (v14-15)

- **Praying in the Spirit**
- **"For if I pray in an unknown tongue"**
 - A known language in the world, but unknown to the speaker and audience
- **"my spirit prayeth"**
 1. Not praying in the Spirit
 2. A legitimate spiritual activity that doesn't profit - "pray with the spirit"
 3. An illegitimate activity is to babble, publicly or privately which isn't to God or man
- **"but my understanding is unfruitful."**
 - "spirit" - your inner man is to "understand" - when your "spirit" understands your "spirit" is fruitful.
 - When your "spirit" doesn't have understanding it is unfruitful
- Praying in the Spirit
 - Tongues not a prayer language
 - Understanding is the work of God in your spirit
 - Eph. 1:18
 - Eph. 4:17ff
 - Col. 1:9-10
 - Praying in the Spirit
 - Eph. 6:18
- **"What is it then?"** - what is Paul going to do? What should the Corinthians do?
- **"I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also:"**
 - Praying with spiritual understanding

I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.
{1 Corinthians 14:15b}

2. Tongues is not a singing language (v15)

- **Singing in the Spirit**
- Eph. 5:17-19 - "understanding what the will of the Lord is...making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

- We don't honor with our lips without our heart

Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?
 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.
 {1 Corinthians 14:16-17}

3. Tongues is not a blessing language (v16)

- **Giving thanks in the Spirit**
- "Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit...at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not"
 - Your giving of thanks is to be with understanding
- Eph. 5:20
- Col. 1:12
- 1 The. 5:18
- **SUMMARY**
 - Praying, singing, and giving of thanks are to be normal, consistent operations within the life of the church.
 - Yet, praying, singing, and giving of thanks are to edify the church
- **"how shall he (of the unlearned) occupieth the room say, "Amen", at thy giving of thanks"**
 - **"seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?"**
 - **"For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified."**
- Christian liberties to be sacrificed - 1 Cor. 10
- Spiritual activity to be sacrificial in the church, following charity for the edification of the church - 1 Cor. 14
 - 1 Cor. 10:23 - expedient and edifying
- 1 Corinthians 1:10 - perfectly joined together, speak the same thing, same mind, same judgment

I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.
 {1 Corinthians 14:18-19}

4. Tongues for believers or unbelievers?

- a. Paul in the church (v18)
 - b. Be men of understanding (v20)
 - c. The law and tongues for a sign (v21-22)
- a. Paul in the church (v18-19)
 - **"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:"**
 - Paul the pattern
 - How does he use his tongues?

- **"yet in the church"**
 - Implication that tongues are not for "in the church"
 - Not for prayer, singing, or giving of thanks unless "understanding"
 - Not for the church except "interpret"

- **"I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue."**
 - The quality of understanding far outweighs the quantity of words without understanding
 - Teaching takes place through understanding not through manifesting a gift no one understands

 - 10,000 - hyperbolic - exaggeration
 - A thousand words leave not the same deep impression as does a single deed.
 - "A picture is worth a thousand words"
 - 1 Cor. 4:15 - ten thousand instructors

**Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.
{1 Corinthians 14:20}**

b. Be men of understanding (v20)

- 1 Cor. 13:11 - not only with what is coming, the perfect, but in the expression in what they possess "in part".
- This charity when the perfect comes will provide for the future edification.
- Understanding in what they possess "in part".
- **Malice** - malignity, malice, ill-will, desire to injure
 - Rom. 13:10
 - 1 Cor. 13:4-7
 - Rom. 1:28 - "maliciousness"

 - 1 Cor. 5:8 - "leaven of malice and wickedness"

 - Eph. 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

 - Col. 3:8 - "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."

 - Tit. 3:3 - "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another."

- A soft heart when corrected in their doctrine will not manifest malice.
- A hard heart when corrected or when there is no error in understanding may exert malice in the heart.
- True understanding, true edification leads contrary to malice - growth and maturity genders toward a lack of malice.

- 1 Pet. 2:1, 16

**In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.
{1 Corinthians 14:21}**

c. The law and tongues for a sign (v21-22)

- **"In the law it is written,"** - Isa. 28:11 - "for with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."
 - Not a blessing, but a sign
 - Mark 16:17 - "And these signs shall follow them that believe" - signs to the world
 - Acts 2:1-13
- **"and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord."**
 - Isa. 28:12-13 (Rom. 11:9-10)

**Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.
{1 Corinthians 14:22}**

- **"Wherefore tongues are for a sign"**
 - Interpretation of Paul quoting the law
 - **"not to them that believe, but to them that believe not"** - tongues given to unbelievers and specifically to unbelieving Jews
 - 1 Cor. 1:22 - "Jews require a sign"
- **"but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe."**
 - Prophecy serves for them that believe

**If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.
{1 Corinthians 14:23-25}**

5. Prophecy for unbelievers or believers?

- **"If therefore the whole church be come together into one place"**
 - The church together in one place
- **"and all speak with tongues"**
 - **"and there come in those that are"**
 1. **"unlearned, or"**
 2. **"unbelievers,"**
 - **"will they not say that ye are mad?"**
- **"But if all prophesy"**
 - **"and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned,"**
 1. **"he is convinced of all,"**
 2. **"he is judged of all:"**
- **"And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest;"**
 - **"and so falling down on his face he will worship God,"**
 - **"and report that God is in you of a truth."**
- All speaking the same thing with understanding addresses the secrets of the heart those that are unbelievers and unlearned.
 - Prophecy which possesses meaning, significance, life giving sound, and addresses the heart "convinces" and "judges" the heart thus making it manifest.

IV. Conclusion: