

I. Introduction: Paul exhorted the Corinthians to edify the church with their spiritual gifts, and he called them to maintain order in the church by exercising restraint in certain areas.

- A. Paul gave several instructions about speaking in tongues, prophecy, and unruly women, which were causing disruptions in the Corinthian assembly.

II. The Call To Order (1 Cor 14:26-40).

A. The Directive About Tongues (**vv. 26-28**).

1. Paul called the Corinthians to place a number of restrictions on those who spoke in tongues so that there would be order and not confusion in their gatherings.

B. The Directive About Prophecy (**vv. 29-33**).

1. Paul said that those who prophesied were also limited to two to three persons, and they would have their teaching evaluated by those who had the gift of prophecy.

C. The Directive About Women (**vv. 34-36**).

1. Paul instructed the Corinthian women to be quiet because they were disrupting the services with their boisterous behavior and lack of respect for authority.

D. The Directive About Authority (**vv. 37-40**).

1. Paul concluded that anyone who disregarded what he said was rejecting the commandments of God and that they should be ignored by the rest of the church.

III. Conclusion: Paul called the Corinthian church to order by giving them instructions about tongues, prophecy, women, and authority in the church.

Questions About: The Call To Order

1. How ordered are churches supposed to be? How does God feel about order? **(1 Cor 14:33)** Why did the Corinthians need order badly? **(1 Cor 14:26)** How did Paul instruct them?
2. What did Paul say was happening in their church services? **(1 Cor 14:26)** Why was this causing confusion? What was Paul's overall principle in this chapter? **(v. 26)**
3. What four limitations did Paul place on speaking in tongues? **(1 Cor 14:27-28)** How many people were allowed to speak in tongues? **(v. 27)** Why did they need to speak in turn? **(v. 27)**
4. Why did Paul say that they needed an interpreter? **(1 Cor 14:5, 13, 27-28)** What did Paul say they should do if there was no interpreter? **(v. 28)** Why did Paul tell them to keep silent?
5. What limitations did Paul place on prophecy? **(1 Cor 14:29-33)** Who was to judge their prophesying? **(v. 29)** What was Paul's main emphasis on this gift? **(v. 33)**
6. What instruction did Paul give to the women at Corinth? **(1 Cor 14:34-36)** Why were they to be silent? **(v. 34)** Why did Paul tell them to ask their husbands if they had questions? **(v. 35)**
7. How did Paul claim to have divine authority on these matters? **(1 Cor 14:36-37)** What did he say to do if someone disregarded the Lord's commands? **(v. 37)** Why was this significant?
8. What were Paul's final commands to the church? **(1 Cor 14:39-40)** What was the main idea of this chapter? **(v. 40)** How well do you submit to God's commands? Why is it difficult?

Prayer

1. Ask God to reveal to you how you might be used to help edify the church with your gifts.
2. Ask God to show you how you can best help to bring order and harmony to the church.