

I. Introduction: Paul exhorted the Corinthians to edify the church with their spiritual gifts, and he discouraged them from using tongues because they were edifying no one.

- A. Paul told the Corinthians that tongues are useless in the church unless they can be rightly interpreted so that the rest of the church might be built up.

II. The Edification of the Church (1 Cor 14:13-25).

A. The Poverty of Tongues (**vv. 13-17**).

1. The Corinthians had become wrapped up in the emotional experience of tongues, so Paul encouraged them to pray using their minds and not just their hearts.

B. The Possession of Tongues (**vv. 18-19**).

1. Paul didn't want to discourage those who had the genuine gift of tongues, so he told them that he was thankful that he had spoken in tongues more than anyone.

C. The Purpose of Tongues (**vv. 20-25**).

1. Paul told the Corinthians to grow up and to stop being infatuated with the sign gifts, but to continue to prophesy the word of God so the church might be edified.

III. Conclusion: Paul told the Corinthians they should pursue the gift of preaching instead of tongues because preaching edified the church and tongues only confused people.

Questions About: The Edification of the Church

1. Why did Paul spend so much time discussing tongues? What was Paul's primary concern for the church? **(1 Cor 14:26)** What was Paul's main concern in chapter 14? **(14:3-5, 12, 17, 26)**
2. What did Paul emphasize was needed to be used with tongues? **(1 Cor 14:13-19)** Why did he emphasize using their minds? What did this indicate about their use of tongues?
3. What did Paul say they should pray for regarding tongues? **(1 Cor 14:13)** What did Paul mean when he said, "my spirit prays"? **(v. 14)** Why was this "unfruitful" to his mind? **(v. 14)**
4. Why did Paul emphasize the need to use one's mind when praying and singing? **(1 Cor 14:15)** How would someone say "Amen" if one was speaking in tongues? **(1 Cor 14:16)**
5. Did Paul speak in tongues? **(1 Cor 14:18-19)** Why did Paul never mention this gift in any of his other epistles? How did Paul emphasize the superiority of preaching? **(v. 19)**
6. What did Paul mean when he told the Corinthians to stop being children? **(1 Cor 14:20)** How were they immature? **(1 Cor 3:1-9)** How do you know if you are mature? **(Eph 4:13-15)**
7. How were tongues a sign to unbelievers? **(1 Cor 14:21-22)** How was prophecy for believers? **(v. 22)** Why did Paul tell the Corinthians to stop speaking in tongues to unbelievers? **(v. 23)**
8. Why did Paul encourage them to continue preaching to unbelievers? **(1 Cor 14:24-25)** What would happen if an unbeliever walked in while they were preaching? **(vv. 24-25)**

Prayer

1. Ask God to give you wisdom to understand this complex issue of speaking in tongues.
2. Ask God to show you how you can help edify the church by using your spiritual gifts.