

I Corinthians 14 – 6 February 2022

“Order In The Church Pt 5 of 5”

“The Emphasize of Prophecy”

Introduction

*In this very practical book, we’re finishing Chapters 11-14, which is all about Order In The Church

- Chap 11:1-16 – We saw God’s ordained authority
- Chap 11:17-34 – We saw importance of Communion
- Chap 12 – We saw unity in Christ thru diverse gifts
- Chap 13 – Shows the supremacy of love beyond gifts

*Now Chap 14 concludes the discussion of order in the church with an emphasis on prophecy – speaking forth God’s Word – His truth!

*Although completely legitimate, this is 2nd chapter in a row in which gift of tongues is minimized in comparison to another aspect of Christian life

***Today 4 guidelines for why and how prophecy needs to be emphasized in the Church**

#1 – Prophecy is understandable to all (Vs 1-11)

Read Vs 1

1. Always have love & the desired gift is prophecy
2. He's going to contrast prophecy w/ gift of tongues

Read Vs 2-3

1. Speaking in tongues is one form of praying in the Spirit
2. Speaking in tongues is directed at praising God
 - a. Read Act 2:11 – speaking the God's works
3. Prophecy is directed at each other for (vs 3) building up, stirring up, and lifting up

Read Vs 4

1. Focus of this chapter is to covet the gifts that will best edify the whole church – like prophecy
2. This doesn't eliminate tongue but simply maximized the need of prophecy to help Church

Read Vs 5

1. Paul wishes everyone had all the gifts, but emphasizes prophecy is better b/c it edifies others

Read Vs 6-9

1. Tongues isn't beneficial in or toward the church b/c it's unknown what's being said, but speaking prophecy is understandable
 - a. Revelation – Given from God to the 12 Apostles (see Gal 1:12)
 - b. Knowledge – Understanding
 - c. Prophesyings – Speaking God's Word
 - d. Doctrine – Teaching application of truth
2. We even grasp this concept of understandability from different trumpet sounds for taps and retreat
3. Into the air – You're speaking & it's having no effect

Read Vs 10-11

1. Every language on earth has its own specificity
2. You have to understand a language to make it helpful to each other
 - a. If you don't, they seem crazy to you

#2 – Be intentional & willful about helping other with prophecy (Vs 12-19)

Read Vs 12-13

1. The higher goal is to utilize gifts that edify all and prophecy does that much better than tongues
2. Tongues can edify others if there's interpretation

Read Vs 14-15

1. Tongues isn't the only kind of praying in the Spirit (Read Rom 8:26 & Read Jud 20)
2. Tongues is unfruitful b/c it's not understood
3. Vs 15 – Do both tongues & prophecy
4. Notice "I will" – there's a willful choice, the Spirit of God doesn't dispossess your own will

Read Vs 16-17

1. When in the church do all w/ understanding

Read Vs 18-19

1. Paul does use tongues yet it pales compared to the value of prophecy when in the church setting

#3 – Prophecy can convert & mature a person (Vs 20-25)

Read Vs 20

1. To highly value understanding is maturity
2. To highly value the flashy things is childish

Read Vs 21-22

1. Foreigners in the streets of Jerusalem is a sign of judgement, it won't help them hear and repent
 - a. Acts 2 tongues came to foreigners and it was a sign to unbelieving Israel there also
 - b. Prophecy is primarily for believers b/c unbelievers won't receive it
 - c. B/c Israel of old didn't receive the prophets, they were given the sign of foreign tongues
2. So there is a by-product of the gifts toward unbelievers that becomes a sign to them

Read Vs 23

1. This happened in Acts 2 – “they’re drunk”
2. This could happen in a limited scope as a sign

Read Vs 24-25

1. Prophecy can reach all
2. Tongues: limited scope, prophecy: wide scope

#4 – Conduct all thing decently & in order (Vs 26-40)

Read Vs 26

1. Everyone wants to be on stage, everyone wants to do their own thing – where's the leadership?

Read Vs 27-28

1. If there's tongues in the church, limit it & there must be an interpretation
2. This is of such minor usage, in the church, that if no interpreter, then just don't give it at all

Read Vs 29-31

1. Decent and in order for prophets also
2. Notice the goal is to learn and be comforted

Read Vs 32-33

1. You can't be overwhelmed in the Spirit or forced against your will
2. Since God is the One bringing the gifts of the Spirit, then He won't move against Himself

Read Vs 34-35

1. ‘Speaking’ here is again attached to ‘learning’
 - a. She should ask at home – to show she’s not contradicting or rebellion against the prophet
 - b. Read I Cor 11:5 – Shows women speaking under male headship – so women can do these
2. Again -goes back to the idea of not confusing

Read Vs 36

1. Are you the originator or the only intended recipient of God’s truth? No!
2. It’s not centered on you, but God speaking

Read Vs 37-38

1. If you’re wise & mature you’ll recognize Paul’s words are God’s Words (I Thes 2:13, II Pet 3:15-16)
2. If someone won’t receive this as from the Lord, then it’s a waste of words to try convincing further

Read Vs 39-40

1. Tongues has place among believers, prophecy should be sought after.....and keep love supreme!

Conclusion

So chap 14 isn't just about the gifts, but about emphasizing prophecy within the Church

1. **B/c it's understandable to all**
2. **Be intentional about giving God's truth**
3. **It can convert & mature a person**
4. **Use it decently & in order within Church**

Did you notice a theme throughout these chapters (11-14) about the order God's established within Church?

1. Chap 11:1-16 – Authority in the Church
 - a. God Himself is the highest authority
2. Chap 11:17-34 – Communion in the Church
 - a. God Himself is the center of our remembrance
3. Chap 12 – Unity in the Diversity of Gifts
 - a. God Himself is the source of our diverse gifts
4. Chap 13 – The Supremacy of Love
 - a. God Himself is our ability to love this way
5. Chap 14 – Emphasis on Prophecy
 - a. What we're speaking forth is, God Himself!