

Lesson 16

1 Cor. 8-14: The Word of the Cross is the Basis for the Church's *Freedom* (8-10) & Its *Worship* (11-14)

Paul has spent chapters 12-13 (44 verses) laying the theological framework for *use of the gifts of the Spirit*. He now puts these points together by offering specific correctives to the Corinthian congregation. In chapter 14, Paul insists that the single goal for desiring any of the Spirit's manifestations must be expressed in terms of **"building up" the community as a whole**. This theme is developed in two ways:

Verses 1-25: Intelligibility in the gathered assembly

Verses 26-40: Good order when the congregation gathers for worship

Intelligibility in Public Worship

Verses 1-5

- 1) Paul harkens back to the end of chapter 12 by beginning with another imperative, "Follow..."
Note the balanced comparison of these Spiritual gifts in the first verses:

Tongues

- a. Directed toward...
- b. With the purpose of...
- c. To edify...

Prophecy

- a. Directed toward...
- b. With the purpose of...
- c. To edify...

For what reason(s) is the gift of prophecy greater than the gift of tongues?

Verses 6-25

- 2) What advice does Paul give the Corinthians about the *public* use of the gift of tongues? (v.13-19)
- 3) Precisely speaking, *who* is Paul chiefly concerned with when advocating for prophecy over speaking in tongues?
- 4) Paul keeps the main thing the main thing by including a quote from the prophet Isaiah in v 21.
Israel was rejecting Isaiah's words from God as "baby babble." God's response was, *Okay, you're not going to listen to my prophets in Hebrew? Fine, pretty soon you'll be listening to Assyrian, but you still won't listen.* In that case, foreign tongues would confirm Israel in its unbelief, *i.e. belittling of God's message.*
Thus, ***tongues are a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers.***
- 5) Even though (authentic) tongue-speaking seems to be a relic of the first century, what application(s) can we draw for the church's worship today? (Consider especially verse 19: ***I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.***)

Lesson 16

Christians are to seek order and use clear, intelligible language in their worship services to edify others and to glorify God.

Instructions for Orderly Worship

[Verses 26-40](#)

- 6) How did corporate worship in Corinth seem to differ from our normal practice?

By following Paul's guidelines, what truth would the Corinthians be conveying?

- 7) Paul delineates three instances where people/a person ought to be silent.

v. 28 =

v. 30 =

v. 34 =

What is his basis for this command (most striking to the 21st c. Christian, the last group)?

- 8) What is Paul's preemptive response to objections from the Corinthians?

[Apply It](#)

- 9) What are some examples of decent and orderly procedures in our worship services?

Paul gives the Christian church practical advice on how to worship in a fitting and orderly way.