



## Message Series Guide

### Imperfect Church – I Corinthians

#### Part 23 – Orderly Worship

#### I Corinthians 14:26-40

The word “edify” means to “build up”. The Apostle Paul teaches that edification is the primary benefit for the Body of Christ when it gathers for worship. Everything we do in our worship gatherings should be done in such a way as to edify the church and glorify God. This includes how we exercise our spiritual gifts. In I Corinthians 14:26-40, Paul teaches that orderliness and building up the church are guiding principles for any worship gathering. In doing so, the Church reflects God's own character. For our God is not a God of confusion.

### READ:

I Corinthians 14:26-40 • Acts 2:17-18 • I Corinthians 11:5

- According to verse 26, what were the components or elements of the church meeting in Corinth? What does this say about the "range" of activities in our church gatherings today?
- What did Paul say should be the primary benefit of coming together in worship as one Body? What is the *edification* of the Body of Christ? What principles do you think should guide the conduct of any Christian worship gathering?
- What guidelines does Paul give for when people should speak in tongues and when they should remain silent? What should happen if there is no interpretation of tongues?
- What guidelines does Paul give regarding prophesying and when it should be employed? Why do you think Paul closes chapter 14 by saying, “earnestly desire to prophesy?”
- Compare verses 34-35 with Acts 2:17-18 and I Corinthians 11:5. Is Paul making an absolute statement about women speaking in church? Is this teaching for all people, for all places and for all times? Why or why not?
- In verse 37 Paul invokes his authority as one who was speaking commands of the Lord. How were his readers to know that Paul spoke authoritatively for Christ?
- According to verse 38, what were the consequences for those who did not accept Paul's authority?
- What does it mean that everything should be done decently and in order during worship?

### DISCUSS:

- Why do we gather as a church? How does each person contributing their spiritual gifts help edify the Body of Christ? How can the local church better promote and empower every worshipper to contribute to the edification of the Body of Christ?
- How do Paul's principles for orderly worship apply to us today? Does creativity and spontaneity have a place in worship today?
- Some worship services are so “orderly” that they put us to sleep. Others are so free that they seem out of control. How does chapter 14 promote both freedom and order in our worship?
- What elements would you like to see more of in our worship services at The Ridge?

### PRAY:

Pray that The Ridge would continue to be edified (built up) for God's purposes and glory.

### RESPOND:

Identify one way this week you can use your spiritual gift(s) to help edify the Body of Christ at The Ridge.



**Sermon Notes**  
**Imperfect Church – I Corinthians**  
**Part 23 – Orderly Worship**  
**I Corinthians 14:26-40**

Everything done in worship must be beneficial to the entire Body of Christ.

Edification means "to build people up."

Speaking in tongues is most pleasing to God when it edifies the entire Body of Christ.

A God of purpose and order will never deliver a message of confusion and disorder.

Paul's instruction regarding women was not to oppress their voice but to promote orderly worship.

The Church is not a gallery for perfect Christians, but a group of imperfect people perusing a perfect Savior.