

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"REGULATING SPIRITUAL GIFTS" | 1 COR 14: 20-40 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

When was a time when a church service moved you?

"True and Proper End" 1 Corinthians 14: 20-25

Paul wants there to be order so that both believers and unbelievers can be impacted by the church service. **How can a church be both aware of believers and nonbelievers in its service? What are ways this is difficult?**

"Decently and in Order" 1 Corinthians 14: 26-40

Paul wants all at a church service to be able to "learn and be encouraged", which then means there should order and controlled use of the spiritual gifts. **What are ways a church service can have too much order? What are ways a church service can have disorder?**

Paul comments on women speaking in church as part of his effort to reestablish order during worship during that era of the Roman empire. **How would you explain this passage in today's culture? How can husbands and wives use their gifts and show respect and love towards each other?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Church services are to be a place for people to learn, be convicted, encouraged, and to worship God. People should use their gifts with control and seek order and not chaos so that all can be built up. **What are ways you have helped with making a church service beneficial to others? Are there times when you are creating disorder in a church service? Ask God to guide you to use your gifts at church so that all can benefit.**

1 Corinthians 14:20-40

6-02-24

Regulating Spiritual Gifts

I. Announce:

- A. **Welcome:** those online & in the Sanctuary/Courtyard/LC.
- B. **Slide1a Wednesday Night time-Change:** Our Wed service, including *all our youth ministries and Spanish Ministry services* will have a new time. We will begin to meet at **6:30pm** starting **this** Wed, June 5th.
- Slide1b** I will kick off a *new June series* on a **Internal Focus, Looking Inward how to best connect with God. Approaching God through Prayer.**
- C. **Slide2 Fentanyl Workshop:** *Investigator Danny Hollingsworth, Riv County Sheriff* will be conducting a **class** here at CM that will provide knowledge of **fentanyl** as well as other illicit drugs, the signs and symptoms of use and common misconceptions associated with fentanyl. The class will also provide guidance on how to recognize and respond to fentanyl overdoses including the administration of **naloxone**^{naLAHKsown}. This class will be **Sun June 9 at 6:30-8pm** in Fellowship Hall.
- D. **Prayer:** God, *in Jeremiah*, you gave a *fixed order* to the **sun** to light the day, & the **moon/stars** to light the night. **And** you promised this *fixed order* will not depart. *God You love taking chaos and putting it in order.* Jer.31:34,35

II. Slide3a Intro: Regulating Spiritual Gifts

- A. We now move from comparing spiritual gifts (vs.1-19) to regulating them (20-40).
- B. **God seems to love Order.** He ordered **relationships**. He ordered the **heavens** (when there was **disorder**/Lucifer was immediately dealt w/). He ordered the whole **universe**.
- Order in the sky** He made a **path for the thunderbolt** Job.38:25.
 - Order in the seasons** He made **the 4 seasons** in Gen.8:22.
 - Order in timing** Eccl.3:1 **To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.**
 - Order in the sea** He made **the path of the seas** (Ocean currents) Ps.8:8.

- C. I used to own a marine aquarium. I realize just how fragile its eco system was [it demanded perfect order]
1. You have to have a special Lighting system (to simulate a 24 hour day: dawn/dusk/daylight). You have to keep it at an exact temperature.
 - a) Just a little too much light or temperature too high & green algae take over!
 2. You have to keep an eye on the water density, salinity, PH, ammonia, Phosphates, Nitrate, Nitrite, filtration, weekly water changes. And I was just dealing with 26 gallons! [Gods deals with 352 quintillion gallons] (bil/tril/quad. 18-0's)
- D. This morning Paul's gavel comes down & cries for order, not order in the court, but Order in the Church.
- E. Slide3b Outline: True and Proper End & Decently and In Order.

III. Slide4a TRUE AND PROPER END (20-25) READ

A. CORINTHIANS and CRAYONS (20)

1. The Corinthians were acting like children playing with toys, when it came to the gifts. Be immature when it comes to knowing how to sin, but mature when it comes to understanding. [be innocent as infants & acute as adults]

B. CORINTHIANS & ASSYRIANS (21,22)

C. (21) Is.28:11,12 *For by strange lips and with a foreign tongue the Lord will speak to this people ... Yet they would not hear.*

1. Isaiah was speaking to the whole nation of Israel, at a time when the Assyrians were threatening to capture Jerusalem.
 - a) Through Isaiah, God was warning the nation that, *if they didn't repent, they were going to hear foreigners talking in the Holy City; they were going to hear Gentile tongues filling the streets of that city.* It was a warning to Israel to face up to their relationship w/God, lest He turn from them to the Gentile world.
2. If you read the Day of Pentecost in that light, you will see how fully that agrees with this prediction, for, on that day, when the streets of Jerusalem were filled with thousands and thousands of people, largely Jews, who

had come from all the nations around, *they heard the disciples speaking these strange Gentile languages they had never learned*. It was a sign to unbelieving Jews that God was about to turn from Israel's favored position and go to the Gentile world.

a) Acts 2:12,13 *So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, Whatever could this mean? Others mocking said, They are full of new wine.*

(1) **Well**, *they actually were* - Lk.5:37,38 *And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.* [this is one way it was a sign to unbelieving Jews]

D.(23) Maybe you've found yourself before in this situation?

E. (22-25) **This seems to be a paradoxical passage**. **Tongues** are **for** unbelievers (22). **Tongues** are **not for** unbelievers (23). **Prophecy** is **for** unbelievers (24,25). **Prophecy** is **not for** unbelievers (22). **A Contradiction?**

1. It seems to be the same lay out in Prov.26 4 **Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.** 5 **Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.**

a) These 2 proverbs *seem* to **contradict** each other. But the book of Proverbs is **not** a list of **rules**; *it is a collection of general principles for life* - principles which must be applied carefully to relevant situations.

2. So here in our text all 4 points are **true** ... in its *different cases* that they're dealing with.

F. **Slide4b CONVINCING CONVICTION** (24,25)

G. What is emphasized in 24b is the fact that *Prophecy is a teaching tool for believers*.

1. Here we see how unbelievers **can profit from** prophecy, **but** it is **not aimed at** unbelievers. [**but note** how Paul expected unbelievers to be in church]

H. **When truths are understandable & comprehensible then here's what happens, they are** (1) Convicted. (2) Called to account. (3) Exposed. (4) Prostrated. (5) Declare.

1. **Convicted.** To so present the evidence that one is driven to the conclusion that the argument is correct. He sees what he is, and is appalled. TDNT/LKGNT
 - a) Jn.4:29 *Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did.* [woman @ well]
 - b) **Alcibiades** (Al-ci-bi-a-des) a friend of Socrates, a politician, and general of Athens used to say to his friend, *Socrates, I hate you, for every time I meet you, you make me see what I am.*
2. **Called to account.** To examine, To cross-examine, To put through a questioning as when one is questioned and examined by a judge in court.¹
 - a) He sees he must answer for what he's done. *So far he's been his own man, answering only to himself, living his own life, w/no thoughts of God ... then he realizes, his life will have an end, and there stands God.*
3. **Exposed.** His dark secrets of his heart are laid bare.
 - a) The last thing we face is our own hearts. A proverb says, *There are none so blind as those who will not see.* - It's like when you stare into a mirror really taking a look at your-self. You know the real "you!"
4. **Prostrated.** *προσκυβεω* – To fall down in worship.
 - a) All Christianity begins w/one on their knees/face in God's presence. Phil.2:9-11 *Therefore God exalted him (Jesus) to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.*
 - b) Once you've faced God and faced yourself, all that is left for you to do is to kneel and to pray...saying, *God be merciful to me a sinner.*
5. **Declare.** He reports, *God is really among you.* How wonderful to watch this process happen over & over again (unbel's waking up to God). We as Christians all have had to go through this same process.

IV. Slide5a **DECENTLY AND IN ORDER (26-40) READ**

¹ Lenski, LKGNT (Linguistic Key to the Greek NT)

- A. Let me say up front *what Paul is driving towards* ... What 2 principles should govern the conduct of public worship end of church gatherings? *Read* the last vs.
- B. **Slide5b ORDER WHEN YOU COME TOGETHER** (26-33)
- C. (26) What wild services at *The 1st Church of Corinth*. It seemed to be an anything goes, **or** a spiritual competition (eg. dance competition, *let's see what you can bring!*).
1. ***Ministry doesn't only take place on the platform. It's often 15 before **or** 30 minutes after the service. It's what **you** say. It's what **you** minister. Be open to that. Be looking for that. That's, going to church!**
 2. Does the size of the congregation help to define the order of a service? 20/2000
- D. (29) **weigh** or *sifting* the prophecy. How we know it's **not** on the same level as *the Word*. - *Don't let the **moon**/prophecy **eclipse** the **sun**/the Word of God.*
- E. (31) **Order**, so *all may learn & all may be encouraged* (31).
- F. (32) Gifts are controllable. (we *possess* the HS **vs.** being *possessed*)
- G. (33,34a) **1st question is**, *as in all the churches of the saints* - is this connected to the end of vs.33, **or** to the beginning of 34? (diff of nkjv vs. esv).
1. Seems a better tie in to finishing vs.33's thought. **All the churches should have order, **not** disorder.**
- H. **Slide5c ROLES IN THE CHURCH** (34-40)
- I. **Next question is** should women always be silent in church? We know the answer is **NO**. [***Spiritual gifts** are for both men and women]
1. We already noticed in ch.11 **women** played a vital role in **corporate worship**. Paul assumes that they are going to pray and prophecy in the gatherings. That they would speak words of edification, encouragement, consolation. Paul had no problem with women participating in public worship, **which is a big shift** from his former Jewish days. That went against all the liturgy in the Jewish synagogue.
- J. **Men** were told to *keep silent* also in vs.28,30.
- K. **So we ask**, *in which way, or why*, was Paul prohibiting *women from speaking*?

1. Is Paul forbidding it because women were the focus of many *mystery cults*, and he is trying to avoid all appearances that *following Christ* is like a *mystery cult*.
 2. Is Paul forbidding women from speaking in church especially during worship, for reasons specific to his *1st-century Graeco-Roman context*?
 3. Is Paul addressing a particular problem among the *Corinthian congregation* (or possibly all churches in the 1st century ad).
 4. Is Paul addressing the women taking over the elders/leaders of the church role in judging/**weighing** whether the prophecies were from the Lord? [I believe this is it given its context]
 5. Is Paul addressing women who were disrupting worship services with questions and thereby challenging the authority of their husbands, **thus shaming them**. [In the Corinthian culture women were not allowed to confront men in public. *In that day women didn't receive religious formal training as the men did*, thus the questions they were asking out loud in service probably could have been answered at home by their husband]
 - a) **Ultimately**, Paul's goal in the passage is to reestablish *order in worship*, **not** to *demean the honor of women* or *devalue their worship of God*.
- L. (40) **Decently and in order** - We should **not** forbid gifts, we should **regulate** them. Our God is not a God of *confusion* but of **clarity**.
- M. **Prayer:** Luther's hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is our God, The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth*.
- N. * **Ministry Survey:** We invite you to participate in helping us know how best to serve our church body. **Scan the QR code and complete a survey for any or all of the ministries you are connected in.** (Last time, not many responses. **I really want to hear from you**).
- O. * **Hey remember** Hang out with us **15 min** after service for Fellowship time. Whether in the Fellowship Hall or out in the courtyard area.
- P. * **Prayer Night tonight:** 6:30pm.

Q. Keywords: order, spiritual gifts.