

# Order, Order in the Church!

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Outline of 1 Corinthians:

- I. Introduction (1:1-9)**
- II. Problems Reported (1:10-6:20)**
- III. Questions Raised (7:1-16:4)**
  - e. Spiritual Expression (12:1-14:40)

Spiritual Expression = *how the Holy Spirit's work is expressed in the church*

## A. Edification is the aim (14:1-5)

**v1** connects the content of chapter 12 and 13.

- pursue love
- desire spirituals
- especially prophecy

**v2-5** contrasts what is accomplished in the church when believers speak in tongues vs. prophecy.

<i>He who speaks in a tongue</i>	<i>He who prophesies</i>

## B. Understanding is needed to edify (14:6-25)

### 1. Tongues are useless unless understood (14:6-19)

**v6** asks the question: what is the point of speaking words which do not communicate?

**v7-12** illustrate the necessity of understandable noise.

- musical instruments add no value UNLESS understood (v7-8)
  - so also do tongues add no value UNLESS understood (v9)
- conversational speech is useless UNLESS both parties understand the language (v10-11)
  - so also are tongues useless UNLESS the church can understand the language (v12)

**v13-19** instruct believers to only speak words which can be understood during church gatherings.

- *What would be needed for tongues to be valuable? (v14)*
- *What is impossible when words are not understood? (v17)*
- *What is a waste of time in the church gathering? (v19)*

## **2. Tongues are for a sign (14:20-25)**

**v20** – We should seek a mature understanding about tongues.

**v21** – The Old Testament teaches us about the purpose of tongues.

**v22-25** – Prophecy is well-suited for a gathering of believers, whereas tongues are not well suited for a gathering of believers.

## **C. Order edifies (14:26-40)**

**v26** introduces the need for rules to govern the church meetings.

**v27-28** give rules for tongue-speakers to be silent.

**v29-31** give rules for prophets to be silent.

**v32-33** support the rules with the nature of God and His revelation.

**v34-35** give rules for women to be silent.

**v36-38** give a reminder of humility under God's authority.

**v39-40** summarize.