

“A DECENT WORSHIP SERVICE”
1 Corinthians 14:21-40

INTRODUCTION

It's remarkable what God can do with a person. He sees the potential in us! Not many mighty or noble are used so that God can show His power in us. The gospel message is foolishness to the world, but when the church is persecuted, it gets stronger! With ease and comfort, it gets weaker. The goal of the church is not to mimic society, but to one by one deliver others from this untoward generation. This portion of scripture is a guideline for public worship services, and what the Holy Spirit desires.

TONGUES

When Paul quotes **Isaiah 28, v. 21**, it was Isaiah's reference to Israel rejecting the plain teaching of scripture. The Babylonians, who spoke another language, then came in (**cp. v.11**). This was a bad sign! Tongues were a detriment in this situation. This just led to confusion for the people of God.

In the church service at Corinth chaos was happening! Confusion and disorder seemed to prevail. The Holy Spirit states that the speaking of the word of God is the most beneficial thing for the church. There needs to be understanding by those who hear. We want to excel in edifying the church!

Our churches should focus on: 1) discipleship; 2) equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, **Ephesians 4:12**; 3) making the Word of God a priority, **2 Timothy 3:16**; and 4) keeping Jesus at the center! (Note that a great example of a teaching ministry is in **Nehemiah 8**. Nehemiah opened the Word and read it to the people so that all could understand. It is important that we try to eliminate distractions and prevent confusion as much as possible when we gather together to worship and study His Word.)

SELF-CONTROL

Tongues may be spoken by two or three at the most, but then there should be interpretation. Those with the gift of prophecy may also speak two or three at a time while others judge the validity of it. There should be *no* lack of control with the speakers, as the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets, **v.32**. God's overall desire is for peace, not confusion. The gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit (self-control) work in harmony together. In our meetings there should always be a sense of reverence for our Lord.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Another issue in Corinth was the role of women in their gatherings **v. 34, 35**. Apparently the men and women were sitting across from each other in the places of meeting. Apparently, a wife may shout over to her husband to ask him a question. Paul said it was better for her to ask at home, for the sake of order.

CONSIDER

Paul knew that there would be “push back” to what he shared. While some were raised with different convictions, the things that Paul shared were the commands of the Lord. However, Paul stated that those that wished to remain ignorant could remain that way!

The bottom line: desire prophecy and allow tongues to take place, **v.39**. In any situation, Paul stated that all things should be done decently and in order in the church service. With our society amped up and medicated, the Prince of Peace wants to work in our lives. Like Paul, we also want to see lives that are out of order put back in order for the glory of God. There is nothing like the church to help do His work!

PRAY

- * That we could exhibit both the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.
- * That the Lord would work in our Christian school and School of Ministry to help transform lives!
- * That our Resurrection service would draw even the most distant of souls to see Jesus as the risen Lord!
- * That many who have walked away from God would return to their first love!