

Part 27 | PUBLIC WORSHIP:
The Priority of Edification | 1 Corinthians 14:1-25
First Corinthians...Sinners Yet Saints

Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1

The church in Corinth was known for its self-centered, carnal living and this lifestyle had made itself apparent in their use of spiritual gifts. Paul is now given the complicated job of affirming that all of the spiritual gifts given to the church are good, and then making the distinction that their use of them was not good! This sinful body of believers had taken what God had intended for good, spiritual gifts, and they had used them to their own self ends.

I. The Spiritual Gift of _____ excels _____ (1-5)

- A. Tongues provide no corporate edification (2)
- B. Prophecy edifies, exhorts and comforts all (3)
- C. Tongues edify the speaker (4)
- D. Prophecy edifies the church (4)
- E. Both prophecy and tongues are desirable, but edification is the end goal of both (5)

II. The Spiritual Gift of Tongues must be _____ in order to be profitable (6-19)

- A. The example of music (7)
- B. The example of the battle cry (8)
- C. The example of language (9-11 and Genesis 11:1-9)
- D. The example of the local church (12-19)

III. The Spiritual Gift of Tongues is out of place in the _____ (20-25)

- A. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers (20-22; Acts 2)
- B. Prophecy is for the edification of believers (22)
- C. Tongues in the church lead the uninformed and unbelieving to say, "You're crazy!" (23)
- D. Prophecy will lead the unbeliever and uninformed to conviction, repentance and salvation! (24-25)

For clarification purposes; the gift of tongues was the divine ability given by the Spirit of God that allowed believers to speak in a foreign language that they had never previously learned. In their speaking they would reveal the mysteries of God in a known language (although unknown to the speaker). On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) tongues were for the first time on open display and people in the crowd were hearing a message from God in their own language, by believers who did not know that language in which they were speaking. In Acts 14 it is established that there are some guidelines for the use of tongues and their purpose is for a sign to unbelievers, specifically unbelieving Jews.

- 1) There are some in charismatic circles that teach that in order to truly be saved you must have a 2nd filling of the Holy Spirit that is expressed in the speaking of tongues. How would you respond to that belief using the Scriptures?
- 2) Read verses 22 and 23 again. In verse 22 it says that tongues are a sign for unbelievers and then in v. 23 it says that when tongues are used in the church they will cause unbelievers to say you are crazy and out of your mind *{Interestingly this term is used of Jesus (Jn. 10:20, Paul (Acts 26:24, 25) and the servant girl who said Peter was at the door (Acts 12:15)}*. How would a gift intended as a sign to unbelievers be misinterpreted by the same as a group of crazy people? (Hint: Look at Acts 2 and see what the groups initially reaction was to the first speakers of tongues)
- 3) Paul elevates the gift of prophecy over the gift of tongues because the gift of prophecy edified the saved, evangelized the lost and it did not need interpretation or explanation! Our church believes that the sign gifts such as tongues have ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8-10) and this cessation in my opinion happened within the first century of the church. With that said, how do we engage fellow believers in Christ who hold to a different view of tongues?
- 4) What is your practical takeaway from this passage of Scripture?

Part 27 | PUBLIC WORSHIP:
The Priority of Edification | 1 Corinthians 14:1-25
First Corinthians...Sinners Yet Saints

Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1

The church in Corinth was known for its self-centered, carnal living and this lifestyle had made itself apparent in their use of spiritual gifts. Paul is now given the complicated job of affirming that all of the spiritual gifts given to the church are good, and then making the distinction that their use of them was not good! This sinful body of believers had taken what God had intended for good, spiritual gifts, and they had used them to their own self ends.

I. The Spiritual Gift of Prophecy excels Tongues (1-5)

- A. Tongues provide no corporate edification (2)
- B. Prophecy edifies, exhorts and comforts all (3)
- C. Tongues edify the speaker (4)
- D. Prophecy edifies the church (4)
- E. Both prophecy and tongues are desirable, but edification is the end goal of both (5)

II. The Spiritual Gift of Tongues must be understood in order to be profitable (6-19)

- A. The example of music (7)
- B. The example of the battle cry (8)
- C. The example of language (9-11 and Genesis 11:1-9)
- D. The example of the local church (12-19)

III. The Spiritual Gift of Tongues is out of place in the church (20-25)

- A. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers (20-22; Acts 2)
- B. Prophecy is for the edification of believers (22)
- C. Tongues in the church lead the uninformed and unbelieving to say, "You're crazy!" (23)
- D. Prophecy will lead the unbeliever and uninformed to conviction, repentance and salvation! (24-25)