

1 Corinthians: The Body of Christ vs. A Body in Crisis

New Pilgrim Baptist Church Bible Study

Pastor Marcus Jerkins, PhD

9/4/24

Unity over the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12-14)

“Developing an Edifying Church Pt. 2” (1 Cor 14:26-40)

Biblical Contextualization

This passage of Scripture is one of the most misinterpreted passages of all of Scripture. Many come to this passage to highlight verses 34-35. We must remind ourselves of Paul’s overall aim in this chapter and what he is trying to accomplish in this particular section. First, Paul’s aim is that the church should be a place of edification, where people are being built up and strengthened by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some in the congregation were using their gifts for self-gratification instead of the edification of others. Paul was against this activity. Second, in this particular section, Paul wanted to establish an order for usage of gifts within the congregation. Women were allowed to use their gifts to pray and prophesy (1 Cor 11:1-2). But the problem mentioned here speaks to disruptive behavior rather than saying women should never speak in church.

1. Every aspect of worship should be for edification not individual exaltation (v. 26).

Worship in Corinth may have been a bit chaotic. Some people came to share a hymn, a teaching, a prophetic revelation, some spoke in tongues. But without order, there would be no edification. No one could learn anything because each person/group had their own agenda. When we come with our own agenda, just to do our own thing without regard for the overall point of worship, we end up not allowing worship to build up to its fullest potential.

2. Order for prophetic gifts is especially necessary since they can often be confusing without regulation (vv. 27-33).

Paul orders that prophets only speak two or three within the worship space. One after the other. And their prophecies should be judged based on accuracy in accordance with the Scripture. If someone receives a revelation, then the person who began should yield to allow someone else to share as well. Everyone will be able to share his gift, but the spirits of the prophets are obedient to the prophets. In other words, no one ever loses control prophesying.

3. Some Sisters in the Church had to learn how to wait for information instead of causing commotion in the church (vv. 34-36).

Women in the ancient world lacked education. So, it would have made sense, in a place of teaching and learning, that they would be asking questions. But asking a bunch of questions during worship would disrupt the flow of information. As such, Paul commanded them to hold onto their questions and ask their husbands at home.

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4. **Pay attention! This is the Lord's commandment (vv. 37-40).**

Paul urges the church to pay attention to what he commanded as not his commandment.

These were not suggestions but the Lord's commandments on how to keep order so people in the congregation can be built up.