

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty  
1 Corinthians 14:26-40 – Orderly services  
November 24, 2024

I. God is not the author of confusion

A. Many gifts expressed (26)

- the guiding principle—In all things relating to the church assembled—edification
- 1<sup>st</sup> Understanding - Everyone has something to contribute to someone at church so come prepared to share!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> understanding – everyone was doing what they wanted resulting in confusion

B. Proper use of tongues (27-28)

- Procedure for use of tongues in public assembly—Not a free for all
  - o Only two or three – one after the other
  - o No interpreter—no tongues—in other words the interpreter must be known BEFORE the tongue is delivered not after

C. Proper use of prophecy (29-32)

- procedure for use of prophecy in public assembly—3 is maximum
- New revelation trumps the one already in process
- Respect and deference a must
- Prophets are in control of their revelations
- Each prophetic word is judged
  - o Judge – to make a distinction, discriminate, determine, give judgment, settle dispute, withdraw from one, desert
  - o Who does the judging?
    - Definitely leadership and possibly others who are prophesying
    - This is not condemnation

Ways to Judge Prophecy

1. Does it glorify Christ (Jn. 16:14; 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Jn 4:1-2; Rev. 19:10)
2. Does it agree with Scripture (Isa 8:20; Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
3. Does it edify the person and/or Church (1 Cor. 14:3, 12)
4. Does it produce liberty (godly fruit) or bondage (Rom. 8:15; 1 Cor. 3:1-2; Acts 5:38-39)
5. Does it produce confusion (Isa 28:13; 1 Cor. 14:33)
6. Does it witness with your spirit (Rom. 8:16; 1 Jn 2:20, 27)
7. Do other mature and biblically grounded spiritual leaders confirm it (1 Cor. 14:29; 2 Cor. 13:1)
8. Does it fit what you know of God's character/commands (Matt. 22:37-40; 1 Jn 4:16)
9. What is the character/fruit of the one delivering the word (Matt. 7:16-18, 20)
10. Is it fulfilled (Deut. 18:22) [note—even false prophets can have words fulfilled—judge carefully/prayerfully]

#### D. God wants peace (33)

- God does not author confusion (James 3:13-18)
  - o Confusion – disorder, instability, confusion, disturbance—when this is present it is not God
  - o Peace – tranquility, harmony, peace between people, rest, quietness—this only happens when we are in agreement with God and His Word the Bible

### II. All things done decently and orderly (34-40)

#### A. The silence of women? (34-35)

- Silence of women is an order/authority issue not a value issue (1 Tim. 2:11-12; Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18; Tit. 2:5; 1 Cor. 11:3)
  - o This is about learning and living by the proper protocols of biblical authority
- What about 11:5 in relationship to this verses?
  - o Covered women may pray and prophesy (gifts) in the church but not exercise leadership (office)
- This prohibition is for mixed assemblies – Titus 2 teaches that older women should teach younger women
  - o This prohibition also does not apply to in the home where a woman can privately teach others – Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:24-26)

#### B. God is the originator not us (36-38)

- Paul confronts the independent attitude of the church at Corinth
- A test for whether one is a “prophet” or “spiritual” is they obey the apostles clear teaching and not distort or twist it to their destruction (2 Pet. 3:15-16)

#### C. Concluding thoughts on prophecy and tongues (39-40)

- Earnestly desire to prophecy while not forbidding tongues. Both have value but prophecy of greater importance in congregation because it edifies all.
- Worship services should be done decently (properly, honorably, respectfully) and in order (arranged, fixed succession, in an orderly fashion, not haphazardly)

### III. The challenge for us

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment—everyone has an opinion that is equal to and as valid as everyone else opinion
- We live in a democratic style society where, within bounds, we can do what we want
- We live in a republic free from kingly dictates—independent minded thinkers and lifestyles
- Challenge is living in a kingdom under a king who expects us to follow His commands
  - o God is not looking for our opinion—He wants our obedience
  - o Most of God’s commands are clear so we do not need to “interpret” them so we do not have to obey them (we interpret to escape the guilt of disobedience)