

Worship Should Be Orderly and Edifying 1 Corinthians 14:20-40

Key points from 1 Corinthians 14:1-19:

- The church should pursue especially prophecy versus tongues because prophecy edifies the whole church.
- Uninterpreted tongues do not edify the church.
- Unintelligible speech of any kind does not benefit believers or non-believers.

Main Idea: In the worship service everything is to be done in an orderly and intelligible way so that both believers and unbelievers will be edified.

I. The worship service needs to be intelligible so that it ministers to believers and unbelievers (vss 20-25).

² **preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.** 2 Timothy 4:2 (NASB)

⁹ **holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.** Titus 1:9 (NASB)

¹² **For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)

II. Paul provides instructions for how tongues and prophecy are to be exercised in the worship service (vss 26-40)

- A. Everything done must edify the people (vs. 26).
- B. Only two or three may speak in tongues in order and with an interpretation (vss 27-28).
- C. Only two or three may prophesy in order only if the prophecies have been previously examined (vss 29-33).

D. Women are not allowed to judge which prophecies are given to the church (vss 34-35).

E. Those who are truly prophets should recognize Paul speaks for the Lord (vss 36-38).

F. Given these guidelines, the church should desire prophecy and should not forbid speaking in tongues (vss 39-40)

III. How then should we implement these guidelines?

A. The elders are charged with ensuring the accuracy of what is communicated in the church.

² **An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,** 1 Timothy 3:2 (NASB)

⁹ **holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.** Titus 1:9 (NASB)

²⁸ **"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.** Acts 20:28-31 (NASB)

B. All "messages" will be evaluated by one or more elders for Biblical accuracy and appropriateness before deciding when and how to present the message to the congregation.

C. Any message in a "tongue" will need an interpretation. The person desiring to so speak to the congregation will notify an elder. We will ask the congregation if anyone has an interpretation. If so, an elder or elders will meet with all parties and assess the interpretation for accuracy and appropriateness before deciding when and how to present the message to the congregation.

D. These guidelines apply to communication to the congregation. Individuals may softly and privately speak in tongues in the worship service as long as they do not disrupt or distract others from worshipping.