

## 1 Corinthians 14

### 1. Review

#### 1-12

1. The main theme/idea of this chapter is: What serves best to promote the loving edification of the whole church?
2. From love flows a concern to edify the church.
  - a. 8:1 “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up”
  - b. 10:23 “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up.”
  - c. The upbringing of the church is the goal of the spiritual graces.
3. The problem with the Corinthian church is that they have given undue emphasis on the gift of tongues.
  - a. Note Paul does not disparage tongues but simply wants to put it into perspective.
4. Paul’s main thesis in this chapter is that tongues do not edify the church as well as prophesy does, because tongues are not intelligible to others without an interpreter.
  - a. Speaker of tongues builds up a few vs prophesy that builds up the entire church.
5. Revelation in verse 6 can mean an extended lengthy message
  - a. Rev. 1:1 “the revelation of Jesus Christ”Or it can mean a more specific “revelation”
  - b. As when God revealed to Paul that he should visit the brothers in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:2)
6. Prophecy on the other hand seems more to do with interpretation of divine will or purpose.
7. Tongues and musical instruments.

#### 13-19

1. Paul tells them not to rely on their own spiritual gifts to edify/build up the church. Instead, they should pray.

- a. Lk 11:13 “how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”
  - b. 1 Cor 12:31 “strive for the gracious gifts that are greater”
2. We see here that tongue speaking was not a primary form of teaching but of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving addressed to God.
  3. Paul, once again, does not disparage tongues but simply wants it to be used to the edifying of the church and not of the self.

## **20-25**

1. To think about edifying of Christ’s body is a mark of mature thinking. But to be concerned about the display of one’s spiritual blessings without concern for your fellow brother is a mark of childish thinking.
2. Paul quotes Isaiah 28:11 where God brings judgement upon Israel for failing to listen to Isaiah. They will be taken into captivity by the Assyrians and forced to listen to “strange tongues”.
  - a. Thus, even in NT times speaking in tongues signifies God’s judgement on unbelievers and its hardening effect.
  - b. Similar to parables (Mt 13:11-17)
3. Which is better for the unbeliever who comes in for worship: tongues or prophesy?
4. Paul lists 4 steps through which a person will be led by the Holy Spirit through the gift of prophesy:
  - a. The Spirit will work in his heart to convince him of his sinfulness
  - b. He will hear everyone calling him to account.
  - c. He will make a confession that his thoughts, words, and deeds are sinful and are then renounced.
  - d. Led by the Spirit he will fall on his face and worship.