

Survey of 1 Corinthians 14- Setting Order in the Church –Elder Harry L. Jackson

Corinth- then capital city of Achaia (Greece)

1. Very wicked city- temple of Aphordite (Greek goddess of love).
2. Yet many were saved (some had been temple prostitutes).
3. Paul founded the church at Corinth on his second missionary journey (*see Acts 18:1-1*).
4. The Corinthians were gifted (*vs. 1:4-6*), yet they were carnal (*vs. 3:1-3*)
5. Paul wrote his letters to Corinth to set order in the church.
6. These letters were written to address the following:
 - Factionalism, division (3:1-9).
 - Immorality (Chapt. 5:1-13).
 - Abuse of spiritual gifts. (Chapt. 12-14).
 - Abuse of the Lord's table. (Chapt. 11).

*Paul also addressed other issues in this first of two Corinthian letters, such as Christian marriage, and belief in the resurrection of Christ, as well as the legitimacy of his apostolic call.

We can understand 1 Corinthians 14 by understanding two key ideas taken from the chapter itself:

1. **That all things done in the church should be done to build up the Body of Christ** (*1 Cor. 14:26*)
2. **That God is not the author of confusion** (*1 Cor. 14:33*)

Vs. 1- Love is the regulator of Christian liberty- Better than gifts (12:31)

In fact, **power without love is demonic** (1John 3:10)

(1 Cor. 13:1)- The gifts must be tempered by fruit-

Look at the typology of the High Priest's garment- Exodus 28:33-34

Look at the same pattern in 1 Corinthians- Chapt. 12 = Gifts; Chapt. 13 = Love; Chapt. 14 = Gifts

The Relationship Between Love and Christian Liberty-

Gal:5:13: For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Vs. 1- Prophecy contrasted with tongues: Prophecy is better.

4 Types of Tongues in the NT Church:

1. The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6) the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost.
2. Praying in the Spirit (“*prayer language*”) (1 Cor. 14:14-15; 14:24, Jude 20).
3. Speaking in Tongues- God sending a message to the church (*needs interpretation*) (1 Cor. 14:5, 13).
4. Gift of Tongues- “Divers” kinds of tongues (TNIV: “*speaking in different kinds of tongues*”), or **languages** (1 Cor. 12:10).

Vs. 3- The purpose of prophecy:

- To **edify**
- To **exhort**
- To **comfort**

Vs. 4- Praying in tongues builds up the individual, whereas prophecy builds up the church.

Question: Which type of tongue builds up the church? (1 Cor. 14:5, 13).

Vs. 5- So then, prophecy, when it comes to the edification of the church, is better than tongues.

Vs. 6- Paul outlines the various methods of communication available to the church, and asserts that they are all superior to tongues:

- by **revelation** (a message or vision from Heaven)
- by **knowledge** (personal experience)
- by **prophesying** (divine utterance)
- by **doctrine** (teaching)

Vs. 7- 12- Paul emphasizes the necessity for clarity in the church.

Vs 12- 23- Regulation of the use of tongues in the church and emphasis on knowing what is appropriate at particular times (*see Ecc. 3:1-8*)

Vs. 26- Paul stresses that all members are gifted for service to the congregation and thus the necessity of active participation by all members. All members have been given spiritual gifts that must be manifested for the building up of the church.

“Paul mentions various possible forms of contribution. A *psalm* would denote some form of musical contribution. This might be the product either of natural talent or the supernatural enabling of the Holy Spirit. A *teaching* (KJV: ‘doctrine’) would denote the ability to impart some truth from the teaching of God’s Word. A *tongue* and an *interpretation* might be taken to cover generally the three gifts of spiritual utterance- tongues, interpretation, and prophecy. A *revelation* may cover any one of the three main revelatory gifts- word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discernment of spirits.”

Derek Prince- “*The Spirit-Filled Believer’s Handbook*, pg. 335, para. 3