

1st Corinthians: Be A Believer

## With the Spirit, With Understanding

1st Corinthians 14:1-19

### 1st Corinthians Refresher

- Written by Paul to the church in Corinth - Isthmus of Greece
- There was a saying “**To live like a Corinthian**” untethered lifestyle
- Corrective letters
- **I do not want you to be ignorant: Israel, Gifts, Return**
- The Holy Spirit and His work, his gifts
- Ch. 12-14 - The Oreo cookie, the sandwich - Spiritual Gifts, Love, Exercising the Gifts

### Previous

- We looked at the body, The members
  - Not membership, but limbs, parts
- Eye can't be a leg - shouldn't want to be
- Leg can't be an eye - shouldn't say the eye isn't needed
- Where would the body be?
- God has set the physical body parts and the spiritual body parts
- Parts of the church, the body of Christ
- Love Not a motto, not a creed, action & attitude toward God and one another
- Supernatural service

Sometimes, I read the scriptures, and I think, has the church not even read them?

**There are so many things even the church is confused about, that the Bible makes plain.**

I wonder why this is?

The best commentary on the Bible is...the Bible

**Ephesians 1:22-23 NKJV - And He put all [things] under His feet, and gave Him [to be] head over all [things] to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

**Ephesians 3:3-7 NKJV - how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise**

in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

**Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV - And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**

**Ephesians 4:28-30 NKJV - Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with [his] hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

**Ephesians 5:17-18, 23-27, 29-30, 32 NKJV - Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord [is]. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ... For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ... For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord [does] the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ... This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

**[Pray]**

**14:1-5**

**Pursue love** - pursue - to follow, run swiftly after, agape

**Desire spiritual gifts** - desire - burn with zeal, heated, earnestly - the things of the spirit, Holy Spirit, governed by the Spirit of God - Jacob > Israel Governed by God. Pertaining to the wind or breath (southwest winds today and tomorrow) things not tied down will go with the wind

**John 3:8 NKJV - "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."**

Are we too tied down to this world that when God's wind blows in our lives, we don't go?

### **Utmost For His Highest**

*It was Paul's delight to spend his life for God's interests in other people, and he did not care what it cost. But before we will serve, we stop to ponder our personal and financial concerns—"What if God wants me to go over there? And what about my salary? What is the climate like there? Who will take care of me? A person must consider all these things." All that is an indication that we have reservations about serving God. But the apostle Paul had no conditions or reservations. Paul focused his life on Jesus Christ's idea of a New Testament saint; that is, not one who merely proclaims the gospel, but one who becomes broken bread and poured-out wine in the hands of Jesus Christ for the sake of others.*

### **But especially that you my prophesy**

**If we have to choose, choose prophesy**

### **Difference between tongues and prophesy**

**Tongues** - you to God

Not a tongue, but remember who the source of true prayer is -

**Romans 8:26-27 NKJV - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit [is], because He makes intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.**

Not taught

**Edifies the person**

*Personal tongues*

**Prophecy-** God to us

Not some new word

Potentially a very old word

Can be about the future, but usually more of a direct, specific word

Understandable, related to teaching, but more of a rhema vs. logos

Edification

Exhortation

Comfort

**Edifies the church**

**Paul wishes everyone does both!**

**Gifts are not mutually exclusive**

**We can desire them all.**

*When my kids desire something good, do I not want to give them it?*

*What if they want two good things? As a good dad, do I not intend to get them both?*

*Mia's birthday (bike, lego, other gift eventually)*

**Interpretation is the key to both**

Prophecy comes with natural interpretation and understanding

**It's made plain.**

If it's not clear in its actual telling, it's made clear through teaching

The bible does this all the time with prophesy. It'll say things, as in Revelation, and a few verses or chapters later, explain it.

Jesus and parables

**Matthew 13:10-11 NKJV - And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.**

**Tongues interpretation** - will always be something speaking to God. It's never **THUS SAYETH THE LORD** in a tongue.

*And to be honest, it's rarely thus sayeth the lord in prophesy, unless you know, you're Elijah incarnate. And even then, it's nothing different than what scripture says, it's just scripture applied to us, the church or us personally or perhaps even a warning to the world.*

**:6-14**

**The profit of Prophesying is greater than the profit of Tongues**

**Profit** - to assist, to be useful or advantageous, to profit

The show The Profit

**Revelation - apokalypsis** - laying bare, making naked! Disclosure of truth, instruction, concerning things before unknown, made visible to all, manifestation, appearance

**Knowledge** - gnosis - general intelligence, understanding (missing from our world today), deeper and more perfect knowledge of the more advanced, esp. Of things lawful and unlawful for Christians (again what the church misses), moral wisdom as seen in right living

*That word's definition alone could garner cancellation in the world today*

*They can't cancel the apocalypse*

**Prophecy** - prophecy, discourse emanating from divine inspiration, **declaring the purposes of God**, whether by reproof and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; esp. by foretelling future events or the prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph, together with the consolations and admonitions pertaining to it, the spirit of prophecy, the divine mind, to which the prophetic faculty is due of the endowment and speech of the Christian teachers called prophets the gifts and utterances of these prophets, **esp. of the predictions of the works of which, set apart to teach the gospel, will accomplish for the kingdom of Christ**

**Teaching** - didache - doctrine - teaching, that which is taught, act of teaching, in religious assemblies of the Christians, to speak in the way of teaching, **in distinction from other modes of speaking in public**

**Ephesians 4:11 NKJV - And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,**

**Pastor** - herdsman, shepherd, he to whose care and control others have committed themselves, and whose precepts they follow, the presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly: so of Christ the Head of the church of the overseers of the Christian assemblies of kings and princes

**Pastor/Teacher goes hand in hand.** - separate study for another time

### **Order in the church (previously)**

First apostles, then prophets, then pastor teachers

Plant the church, specific word for the building up of the church, instructing and leading and guiding the church.

### **Music**

Distinction in sound - the difference of the notes

Watching music with the kids

Kids learning to play music

*Listening to band/orchestra in elementary school*

*Modern "music"*

*Something different about classical music and real instruments vs. electronic*

Even speaking - speaking clearly, not mumbling

Uncertain sound - not manifest, indistinct, uncertain, obscure

### **WHO WILL PREPARE FOR BATTLE?**

Trumpet before battle, feasts, the King, Revelation

**It's no wonder the church is weak, confused, caught up in the world, the faith being "deconstructed"**

**An uncertain sound has been playing for years in the pulpits. Oh would we preach a certain sound of the King and His Kingdom from our pulpits, positions and personalities!**

### **Utter words easy to understand**

Disciples unlearned fisherman

Paul very educated, but he didn't use complicated words

I respect many men's education, eloquence and calling and different denominations

But some seem to be really caught up in fancy word play, using heady arguments and big words.

That I think, to some degree, leave the laymen church in the lurch

**God wants us all to understand him. His will. His love for us. His plan for us.**

*Calvary Pastor has a ministry named "The Word Made Plain"*

*That's the aim. When I teach, I want you to plainly see the scriptures. Sure, we can dig in deeper, and philosophical and heady, but what is the point if we don't walk away understanding what God has said to us? IF we don't know him better? We almost worse off!*

### **Language, foreigner**

Japanese, other languages that use clicks

They all have significance, whether in character, sound, syllable, tone (Chinese)

Nuance to language!

But God doesn't want us to be foreigners to the heavenly language

To the word. To love.

*Christianese*

He wants us to freely converse about the things of God and Heaven and not be left confused

Not be left feeling like an outsider

We are made one, we are insiders in Jesus

**V12 Let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel**

That's the point of all of this. It's to build up the church. The ministry is not to build up yourself. Not to elevate yourself. But to make the church what it's supposed to be

### **Back in Ephesians 5**

**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

**Pray for interpretation! The tongue is a gift and so is the interpretation.**

There's a blessing of the spirit, but not of the mind until there is interpretation  
You might even feel crazy, unsure, uncertain, until you understand

## **:15-19**

**What is the conclusion then?**

Spirit AND Understanding

**The other is not edified**

We want AMEN. Agreement. Let it be done.

Paul was no stranger to tongues. He's not degrading the gift. He prays with it more than them all!

**YET IN THE CHURCH**

In the assembly, five words of understanding is better than 10,000 tongues

A short sentence is better than roughly an hour at 150 wpm.

**The activities in church. The gifts of the spirit. The bond of peace and love...all to edify. To encourage. To comfort.**

**The conclusion of this message? Earnestly seek the gifts. Earnestly seek to exercise them in order. Earnestly seek to understand the will of the Lord and make it plain to all those around - unbelieving and believing.**