

1st Corinthians: Be A Believer

Decently and In Order

1st Corinthians 14:20-40

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 (in contrast to the life of the Spirit, one of Self-control)
- Corrective letters
- **I do not want you to be ignorant: Israel, Gifts, Return**
- The Holy Spirit and His work, his gifts - His person
- Ch. 12-14 - The Oreo cookie, the sandwich - Spiritual Gifts, Love, Exercising the Gifts

Previously

- The body, The members
- God has set the physical body parts and the spiritual body parts
- Parts of the church, the body of Christ
- Supernatural service, dunamis power
- Earnestly seek the gifts
- Tongues, prophecy

Acts 2:1-13 (homework)

Tongues - heavenly languages in personal prayer or praise, or earthly languages for the purpose of evangelism

Friend on mission in Mexico

[Pray]

:20

Children in understanding

Are you smarter than a 5th grader?

Childlike understanding, innocence - good for kids to learn at their level (children's ministry)
Like we talked about - milk for babies. But a teenager shouldn't be using a baba

[Mat 18:2-5 NKJV] 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little

children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

Malice be babes

Understanding be mature

Romans 16:9b

I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

There are things to study in this life, but we also need to attempt to maintain some level of innocence. Only God can see and take on all the depths of evil and not be corrupted by it. It's why he forbid us to eat from the tree of knowledge...Ah, knowledge of good *and* evil.

The Corinthian church had been caught up in all sorts of "love" that wasn't love. Even proud that they were accepting of it - things that were so perverse the world didn't even have terms for it. And Paul rebuked them sharply for this and told them to kick the guy out until he repented.

People say "God is love"

But their understanding is that of a child. They don't understand what love is.

They think love is going along with everything someone else wants to do, or say.

That it can never say a hard word.

But that is not love. That is selfishness.

They say "can God make a rock so big he can't lift it?"

The question is childlike, lacking understanding, not even asking the right question - because God is Spirit, Man and Creator. He is larger than time and in time. He can both make the rock and lift it - physically or spiritually. Because he is not bound by anything and nothing is too great for him. It tries to put physical limitations on a spiritual issue.

The flesh cannot understand the things of the spirit.

Ever wonder why a spiritual conversation won't go anywhere? Or a family member or friend won't come to Christ? There can be many causes and roots, but one can be a fleshly mind. One not truly seeking the spiritual things nor desiring to understand them.

It's why Jesus veiled things in parables at times.

Be as a little child doesn't mean to be immature. It means to be loving and trusting toward God. Not needing to understand everything, to take things on faith, and yet at the same time seek God's understanding.

[Pro 3:5-8 NKJV] 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do

not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.

[Tit 1:15-16 NKJV] 15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny [Him], being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

A world that calls everything racist, or everything out to get them is only exposing their own racism, their own bias, their own misconceptions. The things you and I say in innocence are not microaggressions or bigoted. It is the corrupt projecting their corruption on those they hate or envy or have been tricked into thinking are their enemy.

:21-25

DGC - They did not receive the word of the prophets who spoke to them in Hebrew, so now they will hear the voice of men with other tongues and other lips. The Assyrian invaders spoke a language the Israelites could not understand, and it was an example of judgment to the Israelites. "And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me" says the Lord.

[Rom 10:21 NKJV] 21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

The goal of all of scripture is that people everywhere would hear God, and believe in Him. God desires communication with us. Open, honest, truthful, sincere - heart to heart.

But with some of us, he cannot have that. And it's not for his lack of trying. It's because of our hard hearts. Unwilling to listen to what he's saying to us, about us, for us, about our situation. We twist and turn and even kill his prophets who were simply relaying his word to us.

When we no longer receive the Word of God, judgment comes.

The age of grace is coming to an end. Great tribulation will soon be on the world.

"Wisdom has been chasing you, but you have always been faster"

This is seen throughout the Bible. It's tragic when we won't listen to the voice of our loving Father and instead walk right into the judgment at the hands of the world, or circumstance, or evil or death...when it all could have been avoided.

The worst part of hell, other than being separated from God for eternity, will be the full knowledge and awareness that one had every chance to repent and knew the way to go...and did not choose it.

I think that's the most painful part about regrets in life - is that we knew the right to do and still didn't do it.

So if God wants us to hear his voice, how do THE GIFTS of tongues and prophecy come into it? (remember, these are gifts and not skills we're talking about, can't be conjured up)

Tongues are for a sign

We shouldn't seek after signs for faith, but signs should follow our faith.

But God will give signs to the world to get their attention.

Salamanders

Girl at the coffee shop "working on her faith"

God will use a little shock and awe to get our attention - usually when we're not listening

Civic and deer

Remember, he speaks with a still, small voice - but will use a whirlwind to get us to pay attention

Signs in the eyes of a beholder - same civic, rear ended and totalled - was not because of my sin, i was on the way to a conference. It was an answer to prayer about getting a new car.

Unbelievers, or young Christians, without a relationship with God, tend to be hyper sensitive to what they think are signs. And that's OK, God will use it to lead into maturity.

And tongues are a sign for unbelievers

Prophecy is for believers

Church services, while can and should to some degree minister to unbelievers...they are meant to edify the body.

Sunday service is not an evangelistic outreach. It should not be geared towards "seekers" or aim to be "seeker friendly"

Should all feel welcome in a sense? Yes, but the events and teaching should convict them of their sin - not to condemnation - but to repentance.

So when does evangelism happen? Literally any other day or time or hour of the week. And I'm all for altar calls on Sunday.

Sunday's aim to to build the body, not reach the world

A healthy body will reach the world

Youth conference in rochester

Out of your mind

Tongues, or prophecy, or worship, or church service OUT OF ORDER IS CRAZY

No snakes. No swinging from the chandeliers. No slain in the spirit. None of that nonsense. That's the flesh and it has no fellowship with God.

But if all church did was prophesy or teach...well there's fruit there.

... 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on [his] face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

Is that not the aim? To let people hear the voice of God and let Him do the talking?

[Heb 4:12-13 NKJV] 12 For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account.

Pastors teaching and people getting mad, thinking their spouse talked to him or that he somehow read their email.

People are leaving the church, leaving the faith, because they never had their faith fed. They never heard the Word of God in church, let alone the voice of God. The church was too busy trying to be cool, or make people who don't really desire truth to be comfortable just as they are.

Popular podcaster saying "We need Jesus"

*All those who are truly seeking the truth will come face to face with their need for Jesus
What we do with it from there varies - but He is the source of truth.*

Seeking truth, philosophy, science, reality...where did I end up? At the foot of the cross.

If the church doesn't preach the truth on Sunday, where will it be preached?

:26

Each of you...

Home bible studies

Wednesday night prayers

Evening services

Safety of communion in a large group not a Sunday (separate study there)

Opportunities for all to exercise while maintaining order

But quickly things can get out of hand, and sometimes you can tell folks are sharing to edify themselves - they like the amens, they need to be heard

How is it? It's not going to be a lot of people in one night. It's not going to be all over the place. It's going to be orderly and focused if it's coming from the Spirit.

God does not interrupt himself

Pastor Chuck putting hands on someone and telling them to sit down

Lady in worship service being told to calm down

"Guy" coming in to church service in Harlem

It is the work of the enemy to distract when God's word is going out

[Act 16:16-19 NKJV] 16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged [them] into the marketplace to the authorities.

Church service, or ministry, should seek to keep the focus on God and on everyone's ability to hear from Him during it.

Let all things be done for **edification** the act of building up

:27-33

Simple instruction: At most 3, each in turn - let one interpret

That's it. Not a cacophony. Not everyone at once. Not on and on and on.

If those three come up and there is no interpretation - great. We can be edified in just hearing.

But we're not to continue on as God is not desiring to use that gift in that way in that meeting.

But you may continue to personally speak to God in tongues. It's never about stopping personal worship - but about protecting corporate worship.

Same limits on prophecy - 2 or 3, let others JUDGE - one by one

to separate, make a distinction, discriminate, to prefer

Is this the Lord? Or are we getting worked up?

Is the message coherent, is it working together, or is it a clanging cymbal?

Asked to speak elsewhere or have others do worship with my teaching

Asking what is being taught? Any selection of songs?

While I get this, and I think to some degree it's wise and important to try and be on the same page.

There have been many times when God gives an even better song selection that works in worship and underscores what his rhema is in the teaching and it doesn't require any effort on our part but seeking Him for what he would say or have us sing.

To another who sits by

Someone wasn't planning on sharing, maybe didn't even want to - and God gives them a word of prophesy, or knowledge, a verse, etc. Let them share.

Disciples using lots to pick Matthias - when God chose Saul

Whatever the case - prophecy or tongues - it's for group edification

There is no regular prophecy service or tongues ministry

We're to be open to what the Lord wants to do

Teaching, worship and prayer are regular mainstays, the other gifts round out meetings in less regular ways

Two key points:

1. spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets - self control

You will never be possessed and out of control. You will be filled and the fruit of the Holy Spirit is self control

This is why we don't have to fear the gifts - we may feel overwhelmed emotionally in usage or urging to say or do something - but we have total control over it. There is no running around, barking like a dog - like the story from before

2. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace

I love this verse, one of the best verses in the bible, one I clung to early on coming from a life of confusion and depression and no peace.

[Jas 3:13-18 NKJV] 13 Who [is] wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct [that] his works [are done] in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but [is] earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking [exist], confusion and every evil thing [are] there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of

mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

For God is not [the author] of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
A healthy church, a God-fearing church, is one that is orderly and peaceful
That doesn't mean it's devoid of emotion, or passion, or music, or truth!

:34-35

Synagogue - men on one side, women on the other

Eve deceived, Adam transgressed with knowledge
 Covering

God has blessed women with deep emotional wells
 Men, not always as much or at least not in the same way
 Those emotions need to be tempered and a man's hardness can be softened by a woman's love

But because of sin, and the desire of a woman to rule over a man in the flesh - and because Christ is the Head of the Church and the Husband is the Head of the Wife, the discussion needs to happen on the sidelines. **The point again, is not interrupting the work of God during a service.**

Speak - meant the judging of prophecy or being disruptive

This isn't to say that women shouldn't ask questions, or have Bible studies, or aren't amazing scholars, but what it says is that the best scenario and format for these questions to be handled is by their husband, who loves them, who knows them, and can help them properly understand the thing they are struggling with.

In the same way, I'm not going to stand up in the middle of a service and ask the pastor a question. So the same goes for the men, too, in a way.

**Because we're here...and I'm probably already in trouble...
 Can women be pastors?**

[1Ti 2:11-15 NKJV] 11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

No. Not a head of a church. It is a perversion of the gender roles God has ordained.
 And spiritually, the way sin deceives men and women doctrinally can be very different.
 Not that men are perfect, hardly.

Should she teach children and other women? Absolutely. But to take the man's role and have spiritual and physical authority. No.

:36-38

Paul's challenge to the contending Corinthians
Did the word of God originally come from you?
Pulling rank on them - remember where you came from

DGC Some people think that if they are really spiritual, they don't have to obey God's word on these matters. In their own minds, they are so spiritual that the rules don't apply to them. But if we are really spiritual, we will stick to the Word of God, and not go "beyond" it.

Let the ignorant be ignorant - agnoeo (without knowledge, agnostic)

to be ignorant, not to know
 not to understand, unknown
 to err or sin through mistake, to be wrong

Sometimes there's no winning an "argument" with someone

The conversation has become fruitless - time to step away

Sometimes all the conversations and thus the relationship becomes fruitless - and it's time to step away there, too

Not out of spite or hate or anything but a desire for a healthy, righteous relationship
But that can only be had if both parties desire it and can take healthy, humble looks at their beliefs, positions and attitudes

:39-40

Therefore - because of all of this we've talked about in the past few chapters...

Desire earnestly - to prophesy
 Do not forbid - tongues

Aim to be edified in prophesy, but don't be closed off to tongues either

The point of it all? The mark of a Christian life, Church service, ministry, relationships in love...

Let all things be done decently and in order.

in a seemly manner, decently

an arranging, arrangement order

a fixed succession observing a fixed time

due or right order, orderly condition

the post, rank, or position which one holds in civic or other affairs

since this position generally depends on one's talents, experience, resources

character, fashion, quality, style

It's a nice litmus test of our lives and our worship. If things are done decently and in order, then we're probably in a good place spiritually.

But more importantly, it allows for a healthy church, healthy worship, growth and edification of the body and the lost to truly see Jesus and know that he is among us.