

Together: Study of 1 Corinthians
“The Priorities in Corporate Worship”
1 Corinthians 14:1-25
November 4, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

1. When the Church meets to worship, followers of Jesus should be built up and built together in their Faith.

⁵ The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

¹² Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

²⁶ Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

1 Corinthians 14:5, 12, 26
(see: Ephesians 2:21-22)

◆ Oikodomē (oi-ko-do-mā’): to edify; to build up; to create or process of creating, an edifice

3 PRIORITIES IN WORSHIP

(a) We prioritize edification over experience.

¹ Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

◆ Prophēteia (pro-fā-tā’-ä): to speak before; speak forth

² For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.

³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging, and comfort. ⁴ Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

(b) We Prioritize understanding over self-expression.

⁶ Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction?

⁹ So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you’re saying. You will just be speaking into the air.

¹² So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

¹⁶ Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying?

¹⁷ You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

1 Corinthians 14:6-19

(c) We Prioritize Gospel over gimmicks.

²⁰ Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. ²¹ In the Law it is written:

“With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me,

says the Lord.”

²² Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. ²³ So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴ But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Discussion Questions

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why?
2. What did Pastor Shawn say should be happening when Believers meet for worship?
3. What are the 3 Priorities of Worship Pastor Shawn outlined? Which do we do well? Which can we improve upon?
4. What illustrations does Paul use to show why the gift of tongues the way the Corinthians were using them do not build up the church (v.6-12)? What remedy does Paul suggest (v.13-19)?
5. In what ways might we be guilty of meaningless or mindless worship today?
6. Read Isaiah 28:9-12. In what ways were tongues a sign of judgment on the Jews as well as a sign of blessing to the Gentiles?
7. Why would prophetic speech rather than tongues cause visitors to sense God in our midst? (v.23-25)
8. In what practical way(s) can you show God’s love to someone this week and build them up in the faith?