

1 Corinthians Study 22

Read 1 Corinthians 14:20-40

KEY VERSE—

“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints... Let all things be done decently and in order.” (14:33,40)

SUMMARY—

Paul continues his discussion of tongue-speaking and prophecy, encouraging them to be mature in their understanding and overcome their envy and malice (14:20). He insists that tongues are not for their benefit, but for those who were not Christians—prophecy was for their benefit (14:21-25). Prophecy was a powerful gift having the ability to convict saint and sinner alike. Then he addresses the need of order in their assemblies, especially in the use of their spiritual gifts. Whoever receives a gift during the assembly needs to use it for the edification of the church (14:26). He then outlines an orderly and edifying assembly—addressing tongue-speakers (14:27-28), prophets (14:29-31), control of the gifts (14:32-33), and women (14:34-35). Then he reminds them that they are not the source of these messages, but only the recipients (14:36-38). Order should characterize all of their assemblies (14:39-40).

QUESTIONS—

- 1) In what sense were the Corinthians like children (14:20a)? In what sense should they be like children (14:20b)? In what area did they need to grow up (14:20c)?
- 2) What was the primary purpose of tongues (Mark 16:20; John 20:30-31; Hebrews 2:1-4)?
- 3) How does Paul use the Old Testament quotation from Isaiah—what is the comparison between the stubbornness of Israel and the stubbornness of people of Paul’s day (14:21; Isaiah 28:9-12)? What had Israel not listened to? How would God speak to them next?
- 4) When properly used, tongues were a sign for whom (14:22-23)? What happened when all spoke at the same time though (14:23b)? If tongues was the greatest of the gifts, then how could it be so disastrous when being used by so many (14:23)?

5) Which group benefitted most from tongues—the speakers or the hearers (14:22; cf. Acts 2:1-41; 10:44-11:18)?

6) What would be an unbeliever's response if he heard everyone speaking in tongues with no interpretation (14:23; Acts 2:12-16)? What would be his response if he heard men prophesying (14:24-25)? How could such a prophecy cause belief (cf. John 1:43-50; 4:16-19,28-30)?

7) What happens when the word of God is intelligibly spoken through prophecy (14:24-25)?

⇒ 14:24b—

⇒ 14:24c—

⇒ 14:25a—

⇒ 14:25b—

8) What did Jesus promise the Holy Spirit would do when He manifested Himself, revealing God's word (John 16:7-11; Hebrews 4:12-13)? What was He doing in their assemblies (14:24-25)?

9) Why was structure and order necessary when spiritual gifts were being used (14:26,31)?

10) What was Paul's instruction regarding the procedure for tongue-speakers (14:27-28)?

⇒ 14:27a—

⇒ 14:27b—

⇒ 14:27c—

⇒ 14:28a—

⇒ 14:28b—

11) What was Paul's instruction regarding the procedure for prophets (14:29-33)?

⇒ 14:29a—

⇒ 14:29b—

⇒ 14:30-31—

12) To what extent were these brethren able to control the use of their spiritual gifts (14:32)? How does he address the claims of some that they could not control their spiritual gifts (14:33)?

13) What was Paul's instruction regarding women (14:34-35)?

⇒ 14:34—

⇒ 14:35—

14) What was the reason for giving this instruction to the women (14:34)?

15) What three groups were told to be silent in these assemblies?

⇒ 14:27-28—

⇒ 14:29-30—

⇒ 14:34—

16) What was the purpose for demanding silence from these groups (14:33)?

17) Does this passage instruct women to be silent in the assembly always? Can she confess her faith (Matthew 10:32)? Her sins (James 5:16)? Sing songs (Ephesians 5:19)? What about the woman who had a prophecy (11:3-16)?

18) Why were questions to wait? What did the questions hinder (14:35)?

19) Did the word of God originate with those revealing it (14:36)? Who was to regulate the use of these gifts of revelation (14:37)? What was the conclusion of this entire discussion (14:40)?