

I. Introduction

A. How we gather

1. On Sunday mornings
2. In Gospel communities
  - a. Two or three are gathered (Matthew 18:20)
  - b. Homes, small groups, large groups, etc.

B. What we do when we gather

1. Build one another up - different context requires different order
2. Minister to one another, share spiritual gifts, exercise what God has given for each other's benefit

\*14:26 (read it)

C. Two types of meetings in the early church

1. Large meetings where a preacher would preach the Word to a group of people (Acts 20:7)
2. Smaller meetings where they would share with one another and exercise certain spiritual gifts

\*The point: All things are done with the recognized purpose of building each other up in Christ. This means the focal point of any gathering is transformation!

II. Three little issues: disorder and distraction

A. Tongues (vs 27-28)

1. Tongues only benefits the Gospel community when it has interpretation
2. When tongues is not interpreted, it is used in a self-focused way potentially good for only the speaker.
3. Limited to two to three speakers
  - a. Balance (emotional)
  - b. Domination
4. If you feel compelled to use the spiritual gift of tongues in a Gospel community setting and there is no interpretation, then your obedience and submission to Christ is silence.
  - a. Accountability to the Word of God
  - b. Submission to the Holy Spirit

\*Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. Does it seem like the Holy Spirit would give a gift that exceeds the fruit of a person's life?

B. Prophecy (vs 29-32)

1. Prophecy is speaking a message from God with specific application to individuals or the group. The point is to encourage the body.
2. Prophecy can be masqueraded as self-aggrandizement or manipulation. This is why Paul demands confirmation for what is being said.

\*If someone tells you something and claims it to be directly from God and there is no room for evaluation from others, then that person has no place in the church.

3. Limited to two to three speakers
  - a. Time - shepherding team = 6.5 hours
  - b. Domination

### C. Women (vs 34-35)

1. Paul already established that both men and women were permitted to pray and prophecy in the Gospel community
2. Options
  - a. A literal, straightforward, for-all-times-and-all-contexts reading (not valid because of what Paul previously said in 1 Corinthians 11:5 and the picture of the New Testament church)
  - b. Added to Paul's letter (no evidence; included in all the earliest manuscripts)
  - c. Corinthian quotation possibly associated with the Cephas party (unlikely considering the problem with the Corinthian church's misuse of liberty by both men and women)
  - d. Disruptive speech plaguing the congregation (Maybe, but Paul does not specify)
  - e. Local cultural issues at play in the context of Paul's imperatives (being 2,000 years removed, the believers at Corinth knew exactly what Paul meant, but we don't)
  - f. Applied to the oral weighing of prophecies (context seems to be open to this possibility)
3. Walk through
  - a. "Silent"
    - 1) 3rd time he uses "silent" in this passage – in verses 28 & 30, both are temporary and deal with order
    - 2) It would be a jump to now see this as a blanket silence in effect rendering women mute when in Gospel community. Does not fit with the biblical view of God's created order.
  - b. "Submission"
    - 1) Submission suggests the presence of insubordination.
    - 2) Connected back to chapter 11 and God's design in creation and marriage
  - c. "The Law"
    - 1) Probably referring to the consequences of the Fall
    - 2) Consequences from Genesis 3

- d. "Desire to learn"
  - 1) Good motive to learn but may not be helpful for the group
  - 2) Craig Bloomberg, "Perhaps the largely uneducated women of the day were interrupting proceedings with irreverent questions that would be better dealt with at home."
- e. "Husbands at home"
  - 1) Not all married - illustrative
  - 2) Or on the way home, with another woman or another man (Timothy's instruction to young and mature women)
- f. "Shameful ... in church"
  - 1) Speak, not minister
  - 2) Paul, in other letters, targets groups (1 Timothy 2:8-9)
  - 3) Apparently, there was a significant number of women who were creating distraction and disorder in the gathering.

\*Point: Don't talk in church unless you're the one who is supposed to be talking!

### III. Surrender, submission, and obedience to the Word (vs 36-40)

- A. God doesn't give new revelations outside of His written Word (v 36)
- B. Being truly spiritual is recognizing the authority of God's Word and your personal preference (v 37)
- C. Lack of surrender to God's Word disqualifies you from having a voice (v 38).
- D. Do things in a way that brings glory to God and builds up the body of Christ.

### IV. Conclusion

- A. Our problem/application
  - 1. Not tongues or prophecy but we do struggle with self-centeredness and unawareness of others in our midst.
  - 2. Disruptive and disorder and taking the attention from Jesus to oneself
- B. Questions
  - 1. When I gather together with the body of Christ, do I focus more on me and my preference, comfort, or presence than I do on how I can build up the body?
  - 2. How can I listen to God more actively and how can I listen to others in Gospel community more actively?
- C. When people see us gathered together they should see a group of people who love Jesus more than themselves and pursue the benefit of others over ourselves.



**GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER** (USE JUST ONE OR ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS TO CONNECT AS YOU START YOUR CONVERSATION)

- 1** Share a learning experience you have had where you did something self-serving and what you learned from that.
- 2** Order and routine are good things (for most people). What is your typical morning routine, and what do you think it says about you?

Paul opens this section with the words, “What then shall we say?” Or in other words: “Here are some practical takeaways.” Spiritual gifts should exalt God and help others grow. Worship that is not ordered, where everyone does what seems good to them, does not honor God and does not help anyone. Worship is not about you – self-control is a good thing. Let’s wrap up this section on Living Together in Worship by discussing Paul’s final words on the matter and discover how we can live in such a way that we love through serving and building each other up.

**QUICK REVIEW** (OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO SHARE WHAT MOST STOOD OUT FROM SUNDAY’S MESSAGE)

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged, challenged, or confused you?

**DIG DEEPER** (OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURE OR COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FROM SUNDAY’S MESSAGE)

- 1** Someone read **1 Corinthians 14:26-40**

*<sup>26</sup> What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. <sup>27</sup> If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. <sup>28</sup> But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. <sup>29</sup> Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. <sup>30</sup> If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, <sup>32</sup> and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. <sup>33</sup> For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, <sup>34</sup> the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. <sup>35</sup> If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. <sup>36</sup> Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? <sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. <sup>38</sup> If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. <sup>39</sup> So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. <sup>40</sup> But all things should be done decently and in order.*

**Have you ever attended an event that was completely disordered? What effect did that have on you as a guest?**

**Paul’s directions that only a few people speak in a worship service may seem limiting to us, but why would he seek to restrict the number of people exercising their gifts in a single service?**

**How should we understand Paul's comments about women? How does what Paul says in chapter 11 help us understand this section?**

Paul has already assumed the right of women to pray or prophecy publicly (as stated in 1 Cor. 11:1-16). Here, he is most likely saying women do not have the right to judge prophecy, something restricted to the male leadership of the church.

**Anticipating protest and resistance from some within the church concerning his instruction about public worship, what questions does Paul pose in v.36? What point is he making?**

The two questions posed are, "Was it from you that the Word of God came?" and "Are you the only ones it has reached?" The answer to both questions is clearly "no." The Corinthian church and every other Christian church must submit to the divine order of worship given to it by God in His Word.

**LIVE IT OUT** (DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN LIVE OUT THE TRUTHS YOU JUST OBSERVED IN SCRIPTURE)

- 1** When I gather together with the body of Christ, do I focus more on my preferences, comfort, or presence than I do on how I can build up the body?
- 2** How can I listen to God more actively throughout each day? How can I listen to others God has called me to be in Gospel community with more actively?
- 3** As we have been talking together about worshiping together in Gospel community, what is something you can bring next week to help build up our group? Not everyone needs to do this but consider setting aside a little time next week for each other to bring what they have to build each other up and point each other to Jesus.

A FEW IDEAS

- A Scripture God has used to encourage you & how God has used that to change you.
- A song you can play for everyone to sing that points us to Jesus.
- Food or a snack, if you love to bake.
- A simple gift you can give to others.
- Some encouraging words toward those in your group.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Thank God for the time you have been able to spend together and develop Jesus-centered community. Ask God to give you the supernatural ability to love others by valuing others above yourself. Take a few moments to worship God by thanking Him for Who He is and how He has shown love to you.

**NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE SCRIPTURE**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-58 (most of the focus will be in vs.50-58)**

Prepare for next week's message and group discussion by reading through this passage a few times this week and write down any insights or questions you have before meeting with your home group.

## **PRAISE/PRAYER REQUESTS** (TRY TO HAVE ONE OR A FEW PEOPLE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME)

Use this space or the back of this paper to record the requests and find a way to share those with the group so you can be praying for each other during the week.

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### **How to Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create a healthy environment for Gospel community, growing in friendship, and living like Jesus together. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, please review the guide before your group meets to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content during your group discussion or to hit on all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help your grow in Gospel community.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead. We are praying for you too!

Visit [cpmodesto.org/groupleaders](http://cpmodesto.org/groupleaders) to download the sermon discussion guide every week. Not in a Home Group, but want to be in one? Visit [cpmodesto.org/homegroups](http://cpmodesto.org/homegroups) and use the Home Group Finder!

## **COMMENTARY FOR 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-40**

**14:27-28.** Again, Paul emphasizes the importance of self-restraint for the greater good.

**14:29-32.** That Paul instructed people with the gift of prophecy to speak in turn and then await evaluation by others in attendance indicates that the kind of "prophecy" in view here is not predictive or a foretelling of future events.

**14:33.** God is not the author of disorder in a worship service.

**14:34-35.** During assemblies of the church at Corinth, women were not permitted to speak in the process of evaluating prophetic utterances (vv. 29-30,37). For the sake of propriety and order, they were to ask their own husbands in private at home about what was spoken. These verses should not be taken as a prohibition against women speaking in church. To say otherwise contradicts Paul elsewhere (see 1 Cor. 11:5).

**14:36.** With rhetorical flair, Paul reminded the believers at Corinth of his apostolic authority. He appealed to their own recollection about his role as an apostle who brought them God's authoritative Word.

**14:37-38.** Those who were truly prophets would discern that Paul's principles for the orderly exercise of prophetic gifts were consistent with the Lord's command. It is unclear exactly what is meant by "will be ignored." Possibly it means those wishing to conduct services correctly will disregard those clamoring to do otherwise.