

## 1 Corinthians 14:1-25 – Tongues and Prophecy

### So far

The church in Corinth seems to have had conflict in it.

... give the impression that are fully mature

Ch 12 ... Spiritual gifts

Firstly, There are lots of different gifts that God gives his church

Secondly, God gives these gifts as he determines

Thirdly, gifts are for the building up of the Christian church family

Fourthly, these gifts are only good and God glorifying when they are used with love...

Ch 14 ... the gifts we should eagerly desire.

### Tongues or Prophecy

12:31, “Eagerly desire the greater gifts”

14:1, “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.”

... why prophecy is a better gift for a church to pursue rather than the gift of tongues.

- i) “eagerly desire” = pursue at all costs.
- ii) a command not a thought bubble or suggestion.

Why tongues, by itself, is NOT good for the church when it is gathered together.

... it is speaking to God not to people.

...they edify no one in the body.

Why prophecy is the gift a church should pursue at all costs. (v3)

... understood by those present

... results in strengthening them, encouraging them and comforting them.

### Making his point clearer

v 9. *“So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air”*

v 12, ‘eagerly desiring at all costs’ the gifts that build up the church.

### The place of tongues

v 13

... must be interpreted.

... if you have the gift of tongues you should pray for the gift of interpretation

### Other problems with tongues.

v 14, his spirit prays but his mind is unfruitful.

... is not edified if he does not understand what he is praying.

Spirit = emotions, are affected but his mind remains unedified.

... a childish way of thinking

... eagerly desire... both emotional AND mental edification.

Isaiah 28

v 22 = a negative sign for unbelievers

... prophesy being positive for unbelievers in v 24.

**v 22 - prophesy is for believers. See v 12, 17.**

### **Recapping the argument**

**Problem of uninterpreted tongues for speaker**

- **Mind separated from spirit (emotions) = childish**
- **No one is edified**

**Problem of uninterpreted tongues for the believer who listens**

- o **Not edified either (like unbeliever who hears) v 17, v12**

**Problem of uninterpreted tongues for unbeliever who listens**

- o **It is a negative sign (v 22)**
- o **They will NOT understand and think believers are out of their mind (v 23)**
- o **They will NOT be able to give Amen (v 16)**
- o **They will NOT be built up (v16, 17)**

**Goodness of prophesy in the church gathering for the believer who hears**

- o **A positive sign (v 22b)**
- o **Enables edification that we are eagerly pursuing at all costs (v 12)**

**Finally the Goodness of prophesy in the church gathering for the unbeliever**

- o **Able to understand and repent (v23)**
- o **Become believers (v24)**
- o **Worship God (v25)**

### **Prophecy is?**

**Verse 3 ... strengthens, encourages, comforts**

**... can lead to the secret thoughts of their hearts being laid bare and them becoming believers**

**1 Cor 14:29 ... prophecy should be weighed carefully**

**NT prophecy is different from OT prophecy**

**= prophecy here is a clear insightful proclamation and application of the gospel**

### **For us today**

#### **The pursuit of tongues today**

**... the pursuit of tongues in many churches today**

**... very important to question and weigh any interpretation given.**

**... pursue at all costs, not tongues but prophecy**

### **A church to be at**

#### **Unbelievers understanding of God**

**My one thing**