

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 21ST - 22ND, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

## CRAZY (1 CORINTHIANS 14:20-25)

### THIS IS SERIOUS

After Paul tells the church that the corporate gatherings are for the building up of both Christians and seekers, he emphasizes the seriousness of spiritual maturity.

- We're told, **"don't be childish in [our] thinking, but be infants in regard to evil and adult in [our] thinking."**

### WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

V20 is profound. **We are to stay away from evil and think on holy things while also growing into spiritual adulthood where we make disciples of Jesus.** Part of this is not making our faith solely about ourselves.

- **We're to get filled up for the sake of pouring out, but we can't do this if it is just about our blessings and gifts.**

### GOD HAS ALWAYS USED FOREIGN TONGUES

Paul paraphrases Isaiah 28 to show that God has always used people speaking in foreign tongues to promote His truths. When it comes to the gift of speaking in tongues in a church setting, it can help a non-believer if it is done in a biblical manner.

- The result of not using the gift correctly will be addressed in v23.

### PROPHECY IS FOR THE BELIEVER

NT prophecy is similar to preaching or getting a word of correction or instruction for the church. This is a gift that benefits believers because it edifies and builds them up in faith.

- **We all need to be growing in our knowledge and application of the Bible, while also getting encouraged and corrected by trusted leaders!**

### THEY'RE GONNA THINK YOU'RE CRAZY

The Corinthians were imbalanced with emotionalism and were abusing tongues. After all of his explanation, Paul simply tells them that **outsiders will "say that you are out of your minds" if they come into church and are subjected to chaos.**

- This is more about **emotionalism and selfishness in the church** than just tongues.

### PROPER THEOLOGY LEADS TO REPENTANCE (V24-25)

If the church functions in a biblical manner, is **mature, and works in the Gifts of the Spirit with authenticity and good theology, people will be saved and changed.**

- **When we balance teaching the Word and being a welcoming church, people feel conviction because God reveals "secrets of [the] heart" and those seeking will repent.**

## ORDER (1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-40)

### "EVERYTHING IS TO BE DONE FOR BUILDING UP"

What is the takeaway from all of this talk on spiritual gifts and how we are to conduct church services?

**We must conduct ourselves in an orderly and biblical manner in order to teach and see people's lives changed.**

- Paul essentially gives parameters to church gatherings. He tells us to teach, sing, and use spiritual gifts, but in an orderly way.

### PROPER EVALUATION AND VETTING

We are also told that teaching and using the spiritual gifts must be evaluated by mature believers in the church in order to not confuse people who are listening.

- **Without order, good biblical teaching, and proper leadership in church, dangerous theology and misguided emotions will do great damage to people.**

### "GOD IS NOT A GOD OF DISORDER..."

Disorder is antithetical to the Bible and God's nature. **Jesus is a God of peace, not chaos.**

- **Confusion is a by-product of human selfishness and is a great tool for Satan to use against Christians and people looking for the truth.** This is why the church community must have **clear biblical teaching in an inviting atmosphere.**

### WAIT, BUT WOMEN CAN'T SPEAK?

In 11:5 Paul says that women can pray and prophesy. So, is he contradicting himself in 14:34-35? The Bible has no contradictions, so there must be another explanation.

- Evaluating prophecy was strictly reserved for elders. This could also be a reference to elders' wives interrupting them with questions in service which was disrespectful.

### IT GOES BACK TO RESPECT AND ORDER

If people randomly asked questions during church, it would get chaotic. Also, questioning a teacher in public would be disrespectful and would turn off visitors.

- Paul asks if the truth "originate[d]" or "[came] to [you] only?" His point is that **the Word was shared to them, now they are to create an environment to share it with others.**

### THE WORD AS OUR ANCHOR

Some Corinthians were challenging Paul's authority. Paul simply tells them that anyone truly walking with the Spirit and the written Word (OT at that time) would see his instructions align with the character and teachings of God.

- **We must always use the Bible as the standard of truth for what we listen to and engage in.**

### WE MUST ALSO HONOR AUTHORITY

Neglecting authority, especially the authority of the Word and of the Church, has serious consequences.

- This doesn't mean we compromise integrity, but it does mean **we submit to whatever authority God has placed over us because it ultimately honors Him. God will not honor people who don't show honor.**

### A SIMPLE RECAP

We are to be "eager to prophesy," to "not forbid speaking in other tongues," and to do all things "decently and in order."

- The point is for us to **grow closer to God, to be vulnerable to being used by the Spirit, to love others, and to create an environment for everyone to grow in our relationship with God and each other.**

### INFANTS TO EVIL, ADULTS IN THINKING

- Our culture promotes the exact opposite approach to life. We are told to pursue all desires without consideration of others or any consequence.
- The Bible doesn't promote isolation, but we are to be wise to not subject ourselves to evil things. This simply means that **what we entertain and engage in matters.**
- We're able to be mature in our thinking through the teachings of **the Bible**, the guidance of the Holy Spirit through **prayer** and **meditation**, and solid **community.**
- Thinking like an adult means we love others, are considerate, display the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5), and live honorable lives according to Scripture.

### LOOKING CRAZY TO THE WORLD

- **There should always be a level of peculiarity that Christians display** (1 Peter 2:9). **This isn't how we look but how we live.**
- Though we are to be distinct, we are also to be welcoming and inviting because we want to present people with the truth that we know has the ability to save their souls and give them peace and contentment.
- So, the church and Christian individuals must strive to live in the supernatural power of God while being orderly and God honoring.
- **If we fail to live intentional, biblically directed lives, we will fail to win the next generation and compromise our faith in the process.**

### FOLLOWING A GOD OF PEACE

- If the world needs anything right now, it is order and peace. That may mean others, but it may be for us as well!
- You and I have been offered the path to salvation, peace, and contentment. Now **we are called to present the solution to chaos to a desperate world. We must know the truth and live it as well.**

### AN INVENTORY

- Are we praying, reading, and listening?
- Are we vulnerable to the Spirit?
- Are we truly loving others? If so, we are modeling biblical lives, building relationships, and sharing our faith.
- Are we living in the supernatural power of God that may be uncomfortable at times, but brings peace and order to our lives?