

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 22ND, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

### A CHILDLIKE FIXATION (1 CORINTHIANS 14:20-25)

#### "DON'T BE CHILDISH IN YOUR THINKING."

Children become fixated on things without the ability to shift their focus.

- The Corinthians thought speaking in tongues showed their maturity, but their **fixation with the gift of tongues revealed their immaturity. They were unable to shift their focus from the temporal view of these gifts to an eternal perspective.**

#### "BE INFANTS IN REGARD TO EVIL."

Though Paul wanted the Corinthians to be mature in their thinking, he encouraged them to remain infants regarding evil.

- Paul encourages the Corinthians to remain **inexperienced and separated from evil**, to be as innocent as children when it comes to evil. This is also a warning **not to become desensitized to evil.**

### INTENDED AS A SIGN

Paul quotes Isaiah 28 to show the Corinthians that **tongues was used as a sign of judgment.**

- The Israelites mocked the warnings of their prophets, so the foreign tongues spoken by their invaders were a sign of judgment. Paul makes the connection that **tongues are still used as a sign today.**

### A SIGN FOR UNBELIEVERS

We see the speaking of tongues being shown as a sign to the unbelieving Israelites in Isaiah 28 and the unbelieving Jews at Pentecost in Acts 2.

- The unbelieving Jews at Pentecost had their curiosity peaked by the sign of the disciples speaking in tongues, but it was Peter's preaching that brought the crowds to a place of conviction and conversion.

### PROPHECY IS FOR BELIEVERS

Paul points out that prophecy, however, is for believers because it serves to build up those that are already of the faith.

- The reason prophecy would benefit believers and not unbelievers, is because you must have a basis of faith to build upon. **We are unable to build up unless a firm foundation has been established.**

### TONGUES IN A PUBLIC GATHERING

Paul has been trying to get the Corinthians to consider how their actions may be perceived by the unbelievers around them.

- In order to shift perspective, Paul asks, **"if an unbeliever comes in and we are all speaking in tongues, will they not say that we are out of our minds?"**

### PROPHECY IN A PUBLIC GATHERING

On the other hand, Paul claims that if an unbeliever came into a gathering and prophecy was given in an orderly and easily understood manner, then that person may hear a truth that brings conviction.

- Through truth being spoken and understood, what was once hidden is brought to light, and the opportunity to respond is presented.

### BUILDING UP (1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-36)

#### "WHAT THEN, BROTHERS AND SISTERS?"

Paul starts this section by essentially asking, "what can we conclude based on everything that has been said?" His response is that everything is to be done for building up.

- "Each one" of us is to show up and use the giftings God has given us for the edification of the body. **We are all to be active participants and not spectators.**

### OUR PURPOSE

To use a gift in a way that does not build other believers up is to abuse the gift and to corrupt the purpose of gathering.

- We were created to bring glory to God (Isaiah 43:7), and the purpose of our gathering is "to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).

### ORDER IN GATHERINGS

Clear directives were given to maintain order in church gatherings. Paul insisted that only a few be permitted to speak in tongues, in an orderly fashion, and only if there was an interpretation.

- Paul insisted that unintelligible speech be done in private between that person and God.

### PROPHECY IN GATHERINGS

Paul gave the same measure of order to those with the gift of prophecy as those with the gift of tongues.

- The reason a limit was set on how many could speak in tongues and prophecy was to make sure that the whole gathering was not given over to these gifts. **Worship and the Word should be the focus and not gifts.**

### THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

Paul says others should evaluate what is said when someone speaks. No "word from the Lord" should be received without evaluating its agreement with Scripture (1 John 4:1).

- Further, the idea that someone could lose control when the Spirit came upon them is expelled by saying that "the prophets' spirits are subject to the prophets."

### THERE MUST BE MORE GOING ON!

Paul says, "a woman is not permitted to speak and should be silent." Is Paul contradicting himself? In 1 Corinthians 11:1-6, Paul establishes that a woman can pray and prophesy publicly.

- Also, Paul never wrote this in his other letters, just specifically about the women in Corinth. The Greek word Paul used is *laleo*, which means to talk, argue, profess, or chatter.

- The heart behind this section was to maintain order within the worship gatherings, and someone speaking out to "*laleo*" during the gathering would be a disruption.

### EVEN FURTHER...

In the ancient world, especially in Jewish synagogues, the men and women would have been in different groups during the worship gathering.

- It would have been incredibly disruptive for a woman to go across the room to her husband to ask questions, so to avoid disruption, Paul says, "ask at home."

### PERTAINING TO EVALUATING PROPHECY

This is not the exposing of heretical teaching, but the disruptive chatter during a gathering. Further, Paul had just written about honoring authority in Ch. 11.

- If a woman was to disrupt service about a prophecy, she would be dishonoring her husband and the church leadership responsible for evaluating prophecy.

### PAUL SENSED THERE WOULD BE A DISPUTE

Paul asks, "did the word of God originate with you?" Which it did not, it came to Paul and then to the Corinthians through him.

- By asking if the word originated with them, Paul is asking if they received knowledge that contradicts what has been taught. **God will not give "words" or direction that do not line up with what He has spoken through Scripture.**

### IN AN ORDERLY MANNER (1 CORINTHIANS 14:37-40)

#### "WISE IN THEIR OWN EYES"

Paul addresses those who consider themselves to be prophets and spiritual and may want to dispute his teachings. He reminds them that what he taught was the "Lord's commands."

- Prophecies are to be evaluated and tested, but **the Apostolic word should be regarded as the word of the Lord.**

### THOSE WHO IGNORE WILL BE IGNORED

Anyone who ignored the Apostolic teachings of Paul and therefore rejected it as being the word of the Lord, would have their disputes ignored in public gatherings.

- To ignore the teachings also had eternal consequences. **To reject the word of God is to reject God, and if we ignore Him, He will ignore us.**

### ORDER AND BALANCE

To maintain order and balance, Paul again urges the Corinthians to "be eager to prophesy" since it builds up the church, but not to "forbid speaking in other tongues."

- In all matters related to worship, **everything that takes place in a public gathering should take place in a fitting and orderly way.**

### CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS

- Paul wanted the Corinthians to consider what effect speaking in tongues had on the unbelievers who visit public gatherings of the church. **Are we considering others when we gather, or has it become all about ourselves?**
- **Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, and so should we!**

### MATURITY IN OUR THINKING

- **Are we infantile in our speech and thinking?**
- Once a child discovers their voice they constantly babble, but as that child develops and matures, they use their voice for the purpose of communication.
- **The gift to declare a message from God should never replace the Word of God!**