

Grown-Up Worship **1 Corinthians 14:1-33a; 36-40**

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The Main Theme: **WHEN THE CHURCH GATHERS, WORSHIP MUST BE CHARACTERIZED BY LOVE, BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS WHO PARTICIPATE, AND BE ORDERED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy . . . ³⁹So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰But all things should be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:1, 39-40 (English Standard Version)

Supporting Truth #1: CORPORATE WORSHIP MUST BUILD UP THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ²For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up . . . ¹²So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church . . . ³¹For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged . . . 1 Corinthians 14:1-6; 12; 31 (ESV)

Gift of tongues = Spirit-inspired speech which bypasses the speaker's conscious mind

If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. ²⁸But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. 1 Corinthians 14:27-28 (ESV)

"various kinds of tongues" - See 1 Corinthians 12:10.

Three Effects of the Gift of Tongues

- Tongues build up individual believers. (See 1 Corinthians 14:4.)
- Uninterpreted tongues is a negative sign to unbelievers. (See 1 Corinthians 14:22-23.)

Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers . . . ²³If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?
1 Corinthians 14:22-23 (ESV)

- Interpreted tongues build up the church. (See 1 Corinthians 14:5.)

Tongues can be used publically in a worship service, but also has a private use. (See 1 Corinthians 14:14; Romans 8:26-27.)

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 1 Corinthians 14:14 (ESV)

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.
Romans 8:26 (New International Version)

Supporting Truth #2: WHAT BUILDS UP THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP IS UNDERSTANDABLE TRUTH. 1 Corinthians 14:6-7, 9, 20; 13-19

The gift of prophecy = proclaiming a message from God which has been prompted by the Holy Spirit