

Life Group Guide 1 Cor 14:1–40 “Order in the Church” For the Sermon Preached on Feb 19 and For Use in Life Groups through Feb 26

Icebreaker Questions

Tell the group a humorous memory of a time when a church service did not go as you expected. How did people react? How did you react?

Read the Biblical Text: 1 Cor 14:1–40

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. The Key to Order Is Love (v. 1)**
 - a. A loveless church is full of competition and division.
 - b. A love centered church is mission focused (v. 1; John 13:34-35).
- II. The Key to Order is Gospel Proclamation (vv. 2-5)**
 - a. Gospel proclamation results in the proper use of spiritual gifts (vv. 2-3).
 - b. Gospel proclamation is the main objective of the church (vv. 4-5).
- III. The Key to Order is Understanding (vv. 6-25)**
 - a. Requirement: To be acted on God’s Word must be understood (vv. 9, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20).
 - b. Illustrations of Truth (vv. 7-11)
 - c. Application: Life proves the need for understanding biblical truth before it can be acted upon (vv. 12-25).
- IV. The Key to Order is Spiritual Growth (v. 20)**
 - a. Maturity is a must for a child of God.
 - b. Immaturity always results in problems (v. 20; 1 Cor. 3:1-4).
 - c. Maturity requires commitment (v. 20c).
- V. The Key to Order is Appropriate Worship (vv. 26-40)**
 - a. Appropriate Worship Defined (v. 26)
 - b. Appropriate Worship Illustrated (vv. 33, 40)

Observations of the Biblical Text

1. According to vs. 1-3, what is the gift of prophecy good for in the church? What is its purpose?

2. How does Paul compare the gift of tongues and the gift of prophecy in vs. 4-5?

3. To what sound does Paul compare speaking in tongues in vs. 6-12?

4. According to vs. 13-19, what does Paul say he prefers to speaking in tongues?

5. According to vs. 20-25, what is the gift of tongues for? What is the gift of prophecy for?

6. What does Paul say all the gifts are for in vs. 26-33?

7. According to vs. 33-35 what does Paul call shameful?

8. What does Paul say should characterize the worship gathering of Christians in vs. 36-40?

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Interpretation of the Biblical Text

1. Chapter 14 continues Paul’s focus on the abuse of spiritual gifts in the churches at Corinth. As a quick review, what has Paul said about spiritual gifts so far in 1 Corinthians 12 and 13?

2. Read through the entirety of 1 Corinthians 14 again. Make a list of everything that Paul says about the gift of “prophecy.” How does Paul envision the use of this gift in the church? What does this mean for us?

3. What does Paul say about the gift of tongues in this chapter? What limitations does Paul put on tongues in 1 Corinthians 12-14?

4. What does Paul say about how we should think about the unbelievers who come into our church service in vs. 20-25?

5. What does Paul mean when he says “Let the wives keep silent in the churches” in verse 34? What are these verses doing here at the end of a discussion on spiritual gifts? How are we to understand these verses today?

Application of the Biblical Text

1. This week memorize 1 Corinthians 14:20: “Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.”

2. Keep up with our annual Bible reading plan this week. If you have gotten behind, pick up where we are right now. You can always go back and read what you’ve missed as you have time.

3. Paul talks a lot about in 1 Corinthians 14 about how to relate to unbelievers in the church. Do you think we have a lot of unbelievers visit our church on a Sunday morning? What part could you play in helping us do that better?

4. When a church has disagreements over an issue like the meaning of 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, how should they handle it? What part can you play in helping the church maintain unity with disagreements like this?

5. If you were asked by someone new to church to explain what the gift of prophecy is, what would you say? Even if you don’t have the specific “gift of prophecy,” how can you be involved in doing the things that Paul describes prophecy doing in the lives of others?