
A Culture Of Confusion: A Study In 1 Corinthians

“Desiring The Best ”

1 Corinthians 14:1-20

12-01-24

Introduction: In 1 Corinthians 12-14, Paul is focused on the role of spiritual gifts in the functioning of the church.

- Chapter 12 explained the “body” concept.
- Chapter 13 focused on love.
- 1. As we come to chapter 14, he begins to deal with the specific problems Corinth was experiencing.
- 2. The reality was the gifts were being abused
- 3. Paul is writing to correct this; he wants them to understand and desire the greater gifts.
- 4. One of the most troublesome areas was the use of tongues in the worship service.
- 5. As Paul confronts this error, we see two important goals for worship.

I. Edification (Spiritual Growth)

A. Some Gifts Are Less Edifying

- The Nature Of Tongues
- The Effect Of Tongues

B. Other Gifts Are More Edifying

- The Nature Of Prophecy
- The Effect Of Prophecy

II. Clarity (Understanding Truth)

A. Clarity Is Needed

- For Words To Be Helpful
- To Communicate Effectively

B. Clarity Achieved

- Interpretation
- Instruction

Conclusion: It is easy to get tangled up in the issue of tongues and miss what Paul is saying.

1. When the church gathers for worship, there is a clear purpose.
2. Truth should be communicated clearly so the Holy Spirit can build up the body of Christ.
3. Because that is true, Paul emphasized the use of prophecy over tongues.
4. Thinking about your gifts:
 - What can you do to build others up?
 - What can you do to clarify truth?