

Sermon Notes / 1 Corinthians 14



Not everything that is “Christian” is Christ.

Big Idea: “We” is greater than “me”.



	Unity	Variety	Maturity
1 Corinthians	12:1-13	12:14-31	13:1-13
Romans	12:1-5	12:6-8	12:9-21
Ephesians	4:1-6	4:7-12	4:13-16

A. Pursue Love: “God, give me love...” (1a)

“14 ¹Pursue love...”

B. Pursue Prophecy: “God, give me a message...” (v.1b-25)

14 ... and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophecy. 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 prophecy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

Prophecy: a message from God.

1. “Upbuilding”: *Oikodomen*- house to build.
2. “Encouragement”: *Paraclete*- to strengthen.
3. “Consolation”: *Paramuthian*- to empathize.

Tongues: “various kinds of tongues”- (1 Corinthians 12:28b)

1. Unbelievers: “Divided tongues as of fire appeared to them...” (Acts 2:3a).
 2. Believers: “Language of angels”- (13:1)
- “The one who prophesies is greater...” (1 Cor. 14:5b)

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B. Pursue Prophecy: “God, give me a message...” (v.1b-25)

⁶Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? ⁸And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? ⁹So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. ¹²So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

B. Pursue Prophecy: “God, give me a message...” (v.1b-25)

¹³Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. ¹⁶Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. ¹⁸I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

B. Pursue Prophecy: “God, give me a message...” (v.1b-25)

²⁰Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” ²²Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. 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? ²⁴But if all prophecy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

C. Pursue Order: “God, give us peace...” (v. 26-40)

²⁶What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. ²⁷If 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. ²⁹Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. ³⁰If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. ³¹For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be

encouraged, ³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

1. Freedom of Tongues- subject to interpretation
2. Freedom of Prophecy- subject to weighing

C. Pursue Order: “God, give us peace...” (v. 26-40)

As in all the churches of the saints, ³⁴ the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. ³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

3. Freedom of women- subject to spiritual authority.

1 Tim. 2:11-12

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

C. Pursue Order: “God, give us peace...” (v. 26-40)

³⁶ Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? ³⁷ If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. ³⁸ If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. ³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.

Big Idea: “We” is greater than “me”.

Study Guide / 1 Corinthians 14



Big Idea: “We” is greater than “me”.

1. “Pursue love” (14:1a). Since “God is love” (1 John 4:8b), what does it look like for you to pursue love? How can you and I become more loving?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25.

a. Prophecy is a message from God for...

1. “Upbuilding”: *Oikodomen*- house to build.

2. “Encouragement”: *Paraclete*- to strengthen.

3. “Consolation”: *Paramuthian*- to empathize.

Discuss what it looks like in your life to pursue giving others a ‘message from God.’

b. Tongues are “various” (1 Cor. 12:28b)- for unbelievers (Acts 2) or for believers (14:18).

Discuss why tongues are not to be desired in group gatherings as much as a prophetic word.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-40.

Notice that there are freedoms with guidelines for when we meet in groups.

a. Freedom of Tongues- subject to interpretation.

b. Freedom of Prophecy- subject to weighing.

c. Freedom for Woman- subject to spiritual authority.

**Note: We know women are free to pray and prophecy in church group gatherings but in subjection to spiritual headship (1 Cor. 11). In this context “for all churches”, it appears that when weighing a prophetic word in the large assembly, women were to remain silent so as not to publicly undermine the spiritual authority of their husband. If a man were to give a prophetic word, and his wife were to say, “No, that’s not from God.”, it could come across as undermining his headship. So, Paul is telling women to “ask” and question at home/private.*

How might God want to use you to build up the body of Christ by using your gifts in a way that is not self-aggrandizing but edifying to others. Discuss.

4. Discuss the imbalance of very few people using their gifts, versus everyone wanting to say something when groups gather. How can we pursue love, prophecy and order in a God-honoring way? Discuss.