

I. When Love Comes to Church

A. General Application of the Comparison between Tongues and Prophecy

1. **When love comes to church love desires above all else that each person in attendance be able to know and love God through Christ without obstruction!**
 - a. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with the gift of tongues
 - b. But, the gift of tongues has a private benefit that, when expressed in public worship obstructs the benefit of understanding and application for everyone present
2. Love Goal of Spiritual Gifts: **That others on the receiving end of spiritual gifts may be drawn closer to Christ and through Him closer to God.**
 - a. The ministry of your giftedness should open the way for others to know God as He is and love Him as He deserves
 - (1) Whatever God uses through you
 - (a) Serving
 - (b) Preaching/Teaching
 - (c) Hospitality
 - (d) Faith
 - (e) Miracles
 - (2) Should direct others to Him and not to you
 - b. **The ministry of your gift should not hinder or obstruct others from knowing God as He is and loving Him as He deserves.**
 - (1) Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another as He has loved them.
 - (2) When that love enters the fellowship of the fully integrated people of God in worship, that love clears a path for believers and unbelievers alike to come wholeheartedly and unobstructedly to Christ.
 - (a) Any “love” that keeps people trapped in sin and away from God’s saving grace is not Christ’s love.
 - (b) Any “love” that calls for no confession of sin, no repentance of sin, and no obedience to the revealed will of God in His word, is not God’s love.
 - (c) Any “love” that focuses the affections of the heart on the sinful self rather than the crucified and resurrected Savior will not fit the definition of love to which we are called and with which true believers are filled by the Holy Spirit.
 - (d) These are why Paul calls for the primacy of prophecy in public worship.

B. The Primacy of Prophecy

1. **The gift of prophecy serves the goal of love in corporate worship.**
2. Three Effects of Prophecy Among the Fully Integrated People of God Gathered for Worship
 - a. Summarize the effect of love removing obstructions to understanding in worship
 - b. Effects
 - (1) Edification/"Build up"
 - (2) Encouragement - overcoming sluggishness
 - (3) Consolation - overcoming sadness

II. Three Effects of Prophecy Among the Fully Integrated People of God Gathered for Worship

A. Edification/"Build up"

1. What does "edification" mean?
 - a. Greek - "to increase the potential of someone or something with focus on the process involved."
 - b. Cornerstone
 - (1) Edified this lot in the Cedar Grove Business Park
 - (a) Started with a shovel
 - (b) Then an excavator
 - (c) Then a cement truck
 - (d) Then a plumber and a carpenter and an electrician
 - (e) Then a carpet installer and a painter
 - (2) At each step of construction each empowered individual increased the potential for this building to be the headquarters for Cornerstone Community Church
 - (3) You are encompassed by the successful edification of the lot at 1 Cedar Grove Lane, Grand Marais, MN
2. Seven Calls for Edification through Prophecy
 - a. **1 Corinthians 14:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ Now 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.**
 - b. **1 Corinthians 14:6 (ESV) Now, 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?**
 - c. **1 Corinthians 14:12 (ESV) So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.**
 - d. **1 Corinthians 14:17 (ESV) For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.**
 - e. **1 Corinthians 14:19 (ESV) Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.**

- f. **1 Corinthians 14:26 (ESV)** *What 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.***
- g. **1 Corinthians 14:31 (ESV)** *For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may **learn and all be encouraged,***
- 3. How does prophesying edify the church?
 - a. Could say, rightly and generally:
 - (1) Prophesying removes the barriers to relationship with God
 - (2) Prophesying presents the claims of God on the hearts and lives of men
 - (3) Prophesying expands the effect of divine love in the congregation
 - b. Paul says, specifically: Encouraging and Consoling

B. Encouragement and Consolation

- 1. Encouragement
 - a. Grk = exhortation
 - b. Addresses spiritual sluggishness in the church
 - (1) Means pointing one another, in love, to the word of God as the guide for personal holiness and public conduct
 - (2) Means **engaging in verbal, intentional discipleship holding one another accountable to God's truth in belief and in active life.**
 - (3) Means not only pointing out what Scripture means (for understanding) but inviting decision, conviction, and implementation of God's word in daily life.
 - c. Scripture Occurrences
 - (1) **Hebrews 12:12-16 (ESV)** ¹² *Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.*
 - (2) **Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who*

promised is faithful. ²⁴ *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,* ²⁵ *not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

- d. Life Examples
 - (1) Gossip
 - (a) Speaking of one person to another to their harm
 - (b) The tongue
 - (c) Let your words be few
 - (2) Anger
 - (a) Man's anger does not accomplish the will of God
 - (b) Don't let the sun go down
 - (3) Broken Relationships
 - (a) Go and reconcile with brother
 - e. More than commendation for acceptable practice, biblical encouragement directs believers to the person of God and His plan for our lives.
2. Consolation/comfort
- a. Bible Example
 - (1) **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (ESV)** ⁹ *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.* ¹⁰ *For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!* ¹¹ *Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?* ¹² *And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*
 - b. Meaning - adding one's strength to another's weakness for their strengthening and recovery
 - (1) Good Samaritan
 - (a) You can't help from a distance
 - (b) You can't help without getting your hands dirty in other people's lives
 - (c) You can't help without spending some of your resources including time, skills, and money
 - (2) **When love comes to church each spiritually gifted believer acts intentionally in the lives of all the others to edify, encourage, and console.**

III. Practical Applications

A. Application Question

- 1. What are some ways Cornerstone can practice the gifts that result in the building up of the church, intentionally working to draw one another closer to Christ?

B. Suggestions

1. Refer to Spiritual Gifts
 - a. Prophecy - tell one another the truth about God, His heart and mind, and His plan for them, according to His word.
 - b. Join in service projects
 - c. Lead a Bible study or small group
 - d. Participate as an usher or kitchen support person for Coffee After
2. When love comes to church, love engages spiritual gifts in mutual edification, encouragement, and consolation.
 - a. What can you do to join the party?