

I. Introduction/Review

A. The Challenge

1. Thiselton
 - a. The New International Greek Testament Commentary
 - b. The First Epistle to the Corinthians
 - (1) 1500 pages
 - (2) Examines every word and phrase in the text from the perspective of the original Greek language text
 - (3) Academic text considers and responds to the ideas of a least 10 different commentators at any given time
 - c. First sentence leading to the commentary on this passage: “The translation and exegesis is immensely complex.”
2. Challenge: About 35 minutes to reduce the immensely complex to the reasonably understandable.

B. Proposition

1. **Everything in this passage follows Paul’s game plan for this entire letter.**
2. Everything in this passage
 - a. Fulfills the call to unity of heart, thinking, and practice to which Paul calls Christians in the opening chapter.
 - (1) **1 Cor 1:10 (ESV) *I appeal to you brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and judgment.***
 - b. Supports Paul’s teaching that spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to all members of the church according to the will of God for the sake of bringing the lost to Christ and strengthening the integrated people of God in the faith.
 - (1) **1 Cor 12:6-7 (ESV) . . . *but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.***
 - c. Hinges on genuine, Christ-following love as both the motivation and goal of all ministry by everyone who puts their gift into action among the fully integrated people of God.
 - (1) **1 Cor 14:1 (ESV) *Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.***
 - d. Conforms to the requirement of love to curb personal freedoms for the sake of others.
 - (1) **1 Cor 14:12 (ESV) *So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.***
 - e. Continues in the context of how love conducts itself in regards to freedom and spiritual gifts at play during public, corporate worship.
 - (1) **1 Cor 14:26 (ESV) *What then brothers? When you come***

together . . .

f. Aims at the goal of public worship services that reflect the nature of God and where everyone participates decently and in order so that no distraction or obstruction prevents anyone from encountering God in Christ.

(1) **1 Cor 14:33 (ESV)** *For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.*

(2) **1 Cor 14:40 (ESV)** *But all things should be done decently and in order.*

II. Principles for Spiritual Gifts When Love Comes to Church

A. Provide an adequate opportunity for everyone to exercise their spiritual gift.

1. **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.*
2. Paul does not discourage congregational participation in corporate worship.
3. Paul does set the goal of participation as “edification” - increasing the potential of someone to reaching God’s purpose in their lives

B. Realize every act of worship has two goals: God’s glory and Christian edification. If those goals can’t be met in any particular act of worship, Paul calls for silence from the ministering person.

1. **1 Corinthians 14:27-28 (ESV)** ²⁷ *If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.* ²⁸ *But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.*
2. Three times Paul instructs someone in the act of corporate worship to be silent
 - a. 14:28 tongues when there is no interpretation
 - b. 14:30 prophesyers when someone else has a word from the Lord
 - c. 14:34 women publicly interrogating their husbands over a prophesy he has given in worship
 - (1) The idea of women having no God-given right to verbally articulate their thoughts once they enter the doors of the church is foreign to Paul
 - (2) It is understandable that such an idea can be derived from the English text, but not if you consider the context of 1 Corinthians.
 - (a) Women are saved through faith in Christ just as men are
 - (b) Women are valued in marriage and in the church just as men are
 - (c) Women are gifted by the Spirit and encouraged to add their gifts in worship just as men are.
 - i) **1 Corinthians 11:5 (ESV)** *but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.*
 - (3) Verse 29 instructs the others in the congregation who are receiving the prophecies to “weigh what is said.”

- (a) The word means to sift
- (b) It is another way of discerning the validity of the prophecy
- (c) Paul's instruction here to wives/women is that they not use the "sifting" process as an opportunity to abuse their newfound freedom in Christ and interrogate their husbands in such a way that humiliates him.
- (d) For the sake of avoiding a distraction in worship, wives, question your husbands at home.
- (4) This verse in 1 Corinthians DOES NOT address the question of authority in the church that Paul addresses in 1 Timothy 2!
 - (a) Paul is not addressing preaching/teaching here
 - (b) Paul is addressing a specific type of speaking in a very specific context

C. Protect everyone's opportunity to hear from God by not making yourself the focus of their attention through culturally insensitive behavior (thereby disgracing yourself and your husband.)

- 1. Text
 - a. **1 Corinthians 14:34 (ESV) *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.***
 - b. **1 Corinthians 14:32 (ESV) *and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.***
- 2. Submission to self-control for the sake of honoring God as a God of peace and not confusion/disorder

D. Genuinely Spirit-filled, fully integrated people of God yield to biblical instruction rather than make their own rules for themselves and the church.

- 1. **1 Corinthians 14:37 (ESV) *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.***

III. Final Word

A. Jesus

- 1. As I have loved you so you must love one another

B. Paul

- 1. Since you are called to love one another at all times, the best way you can love one another with your spiritual gifts during worship is present no distraction for anyone from the glory and grace of God in Christ Jesus.
- 2. Don't let your ego get in the way of the gospel.