

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

February 21, 2021 I Corinthians 14:1-19

“What then shall we say, brothers & sisters? **When you come together...**(14:26).”

In I Corinthians 14 Paul wrote about two spiritual gifts: speaking in tongues and prophecy. Here is his key thought, “But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than 10,000 words in a tongue (14:19).” The goal is **CLEAR COMMUNICATION that glorifies God and builds up the church.**

Paul gave the church 3 tests (Dr. Bob Utley):

1. Is it Christ-centered?

- “...No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” 12:3
- “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Phil. 1:21

2. Is it motivated by love? I Corinthians 13

- “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love...” 13:1
- “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts...” 14:1

3. Does it edify or build up the church? Ch. 14:4,12,19

- Speaking in tongues does not edify the church unless it is interpreted. 14:5
- “But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort (14:3).”
- Can you guess that tune? 14:7-8
- Do you understand the language being spoken? 14:10-11 Maybe you need an interpreter to explain it to you.
- Pray and sing in the Spirit praising God (but not in the church) and pray and sing with you mind praising God (in the church). 14:13-17
- Can you say amen? 14:16