

Marvelous Meetings

(1 Co.14)

Two extreme views (1 Co.14) (1/2)

“Since 1 Co.14 discusses spiritual gifts, it has no bearing on our worship.”

- Wrong: gospel was introduced in Acts 2... in setting of Holy Spirit baptism.
 - Is Acts 2 irrelevant today?
 - Do we discard entire NT?

Two extreme views (1 Co.14) (2/2)

“Whoever edifies / exhorts is a prophet.”

- Compare: “Whoever speaks in tongues speaks to God; therefore, whoever speaks to God speaks in tongues”??
 - Not all had spiritual gifts (prophecy, tongues...); could they exhort? ...speak to God?

1 Co.14

Principles of worship

Two perspectives, universal application

- Vertical – focus on God
- Horizontal – focus on worshipper

I. Worship God

1 Co.14:24-25, **worship**; 37, **commands**

- Job 42:...5-6, honor (exposes us)
- Is.6:3-5, humility (removes glory in self)
- Lk.5:...8, hatred (especially for sin in self)
- Lk.10:13, horror (sackcloth...)

I. Worship God

II. Edify Others In Love

Context: 1 Co.13:4-7, love...

1: *pursue*

- Paraphrase: Desire spiritual gifts, but...
- Maintain right motive: love
- Emphasize prophecy: does most good

1: *desire*

- 12:31, earnestly desire...
- 13:4, love “does not envy”

Corinth: some were show-offs.
Others were jealous (5).

Context: 1 Co.13:4-7, love...

6: *Corinthians emphasized tongues...*

- 7: Corinthian music hall: 20,000
- 8: trumpet, indistinct sound...
- 9-11: tongue – sound without meaning...
- 12: gibberish does not edify. Amos 6:...14
- 13, 16: prayer
- 14-15: my spirit... Ep.5:19

Context: 1 Co.13:4-7, love...

26: *all things for building up (edification)*

- 6: **profit** (help, aid, benefit): understood
- 8: **preparation**
- 11: **power**: capacity to convey thought, *meaning* (of language). Ro.1:16.
- 12: **progress**: be in abundance, abound (in edification)
- 13-17: **perception**: understanding, 14

Love is preeminent

Love...

- Lord: Jn.14:15. Col.1:18
- Word: synonym – **TIME**
- Truth: desire to know...do...teach. Jn.17:17
- Souls: attacks selfishness; advances spiritual and eternal emphasis

I. Worship God

II. Edify Others In Love

III. Grow In Understanding

Understanding (v.20) – 8x in ch.14

- **Do not be children in understanding.** 16, 19
 - Children prefer shiny over significant
 - Corinth valued tongues, not prophecy

Be childlike, not childish

Understanding (v.20) – 8x in ch.14

- In understanding be mature. How?
 - Be rested.
 - Be an active listener.
 - Be curious. Ask questions
 - Be eager to begin.

Understanding (v.20) – 8x in ch.14

- A purpose of maturity – helps us meet duties we owe other people
 - 20: no malice. 12:21, eye
 - 21-23: Corinthian pride
 - 24-25: prophecy, the better gift – would glorify God, teach unbelievers

I. Worship God

II. Edify Others In Love

III. Grow In Understanding

IV. Do All Things Decently
And In Order

39: summarizes discussion
of spiritual gifts (ch.12-14)

40: closes section on worship (ch.11-14)

- Let all things be done . . .

- 1. Decently: properly, fitting.

- Correct behavior

- Lord's supper, ch.11

- Women's questions, 14:33-35

- Spiritual gifts, ch.12-14

- 2. In order: orderly. V.33

39: summarizes discussion
of spiritual gifts (ch.12-14)

40: closes section on worship (ch.11-14)

- Let all things be done . . .
 1. Decently: properly, fitting.
 2. In order: orderly. 33
- Improper behavior and confusion . . .
 1. Dishonors God
 2. Distracts worshippers
 3. Discourages unbelievers

Conclusions (1)

- Teaching encourages . . .
 - Maturity, 20
 - Evangelism, 24-25
 - Order, 29-33
 - Obedience, 37
 - Love, ch.13-14

Conclusions (2)

- 1918 flu epidemic
- Three reactions...
 1. Quit assembling
 2. Do not quit assembling even if it kills us
 3. Continue to assemble as before with precautions

Campbell St. congregation,
Louisville, KY



“It behooves us to cheerfully submit to this order and to exert all our energies in an earnest and sympathetic effort to cooperate with the benevolent purpose of our government to check the deplorable disease” – M. C. Kurfees

Warehouses used to quarantine



Conclusions (3)

- The tension –

1. Mt.18:20, assumes assembling
2. Ac.2:42, four acts of worship
3. 1 Co.11, abuse of Lord's supper – distinguishes 'home' and 'assemblies'
4. Hb.10:24-25 . . .
 - Togetherness activities
 - Regular meetings
 - Some forsook meetings

What about
sickness?
I must decide
for me.

Conclusions (4)

- Some conclude they can stay home forever in “virtual assemblies”
 - “I can watch church on TV”
 - Denominations: 30% will never return

The sincere Christian never takes his cue from worldly people.