

*Paul's Epistle of*

# 1<sup>st</sup> CORINTHIANS

## Chapter 14b



# Outline

## **I. Introduction (1:1- 9)**

## **II. Dealing with Problems Reported to Paul (1:10 – 6:20)**

A. Problem of Factionalism (1:10 – 3:23)

B. Problem of Rejecting Paul's Work (4:1-21)

C. Problem of the Fornicator and Church Discipline (5:1-13)

D. Taking Problems between Brethren to Civil Courts (6:1-11)

E. Responsibility to Glorify God with the Body (6:12-20)

### **III. Dealing with Questions Asked by the Corinthians (7:1 – 16:9)**

A. “Now Concerning” – Marriage and Present Distress  
(7:1-40)

B. “Now Concerning” – Idolatry and Personal Liberty  
(8:1 – 11:1)

C. “Now... Remember Me” and Apostolic Tradition

1. Submission and Customs (11:2-16)

2. Pattern for Lord’s Supper (11:17-34)

D. “Now Concerning” – Spiritual Gifts (12:1 – 14:40)

E. “Now...” Concerning – The Resurrection (15:1-58)

F. “Now Concerning” – The Collection (16:1-9)

### **IV. Concluding Remarks (16:10-24)**

# Examining the Context of 1 Corinthians 14:1-40

## **I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS: PROPHESYING AND SPEAKING IN TONGUES (1-25)**

### **A. PROPHESYING VERSUS SPEAKING IN TONGUES (1-5)**

1. A call to love, but also spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy (1)
2. Speaking in tongues (as done at Corinth) is speaking to God and is speaking mysteries (2)
3. Whereas prophesying edifies, exhorts, and comforts others (3)
4. Speaking in tongues (as done at Corinth) was not edifying the church, thus the desire that they had the gift of prophecy more than the gift of tongues (4-5)

### **B. USING TONGUES IN A PROFITABLE WAY (6-19)**

1. Without a revelation, knowledge, prophecy, or teaching, speaking in tongues profit nothing (6)
2. Like playing an instrument without giving any distinction in the sounds (7-9)
3. Without interpretation, it is no better than a foreigner speaking to you (10-11)
4. Therefore the admonitions:
  - a. Excel in the area of edifying the church (12)
  - b. For those who speak in tongues, pray that they might interpret (13)
  - c. Pray and sing with both the spirit and the understanding, that all might be edified (14-19)

## **C. ANOTHER COMPARISON BETWEEN TONGUES AND PROPHESYING (20-25)**

1. Tongues are a sign for unbelievers, while prophesying is for believers (20-22)
2. Tongues in the assembly (without interpreters) will leave people the impression you are out of your mind (23)
3. But prophesying in the assembly can bless even the unbeliever and uninformed person (24-25)

## **II. SPIRITUAL GIFTS: REGULATING THEIR USE (26-40)**

### **A. LET ALL THINGS BE DONE FOR EDIFICATION (26)**

### **B. REGULATING THE USE OF TONGUES (27-28)**

1. Two or three may speak, in turn, and let one interpret (27)
2. If there is no interpreter, keep silent in church (28)

### **C. REGULATING THE USE OF PROPHESYING (29-33)**

1. Two or three prophets may speak, and others may discern (**29**)
2. To be done in turn, that all may learn, for the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets (**30-32**)
3. God is not the author of confusion but of peace, in all the churches (**33**)

### **D. REGULATING THE ACTIONS OF THE WIVES OF THE PROPHETS IN THE ASSEMBLY (34-38)**

1. They are to keep silent in the assemblies (**34**)
2. Let them ask husbands at home if they have questions (**35a**)
3. For it is shameful for the wives to speak in the assembly (**35b**)
4. These are commandments of the Lord which must be recognized as such (**36-38**)

### **E. FINAL COMMENTS (39-40)**

1. Desire to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues (**39**)
2. Let all things be done decently and in order (**40**)

# Questions

6. Why should the one who spoke in a tongue pray that he may interpret? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How was it possible for one brother to give thanks well, but another brother listening not to be edified? (see verse 17) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why was Paul thankful that he spoke with tongues more than all of the Corinthian brethren? How would speaking in tongues have been useful to Paul in his work as an apostle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. “Yet in the \_\_\_\_\_ I would rather speak \_\_\_\_\_  
with my understanding, that I may \_\_\_\_\_ others also, than \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ words in a \_\_\_\_\_.”



# Questions

10. Paul instructs the brethren not to be children in \_\_\_\_\_, but to be babes in \_\_\_\_\_. What is meant by that admonition? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Tongues are a sign not for those who \_\_\_\_\_ but the \_\_\_\_\_.

12. Why would an uninformed or unbelieving visitor to the assembly of the church in Corinth say they were out of their mind if all spoke in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. What would be different if that visitor came to the assembly and all prophesied? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Though we do not have spiritual gifts being used in our assemblies today, we are still guided by the principle, “Let all things be done for \_\_\_\_\_.”

15. If there was no one in the assembly to interpret the speaking in tongues, what were the tongue speakers instructed to do? \_\_\_\_\_



# Questions

16. What does it mean that “the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets”?

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17. Why were those exercising spiritual gifts told to speak one at a time? \_\_\_\_\_

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18. “Let all things be done \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Thought Question:** In verse 34, Paul instructed that the “women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak.” Is this instruction intended for all women of all times in the assemblies of the church, or for specific women in a specific situation? Prove your answer.

**Next Class:**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians

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## Chapter 15