



Spiritual Gifts and Order in the Church 1 Corinthians 10 to 14

Chapter 10: Paul lays a foundation

23-24 What is constructive for the lives of others?

31 to 33 We must watch ourselves and what we do and be concerned not with our own rights or satisfaction but concerned for 1. the glory of God and 2. the good of others.

Chapter 11: Paul continues to lay a foundation

Doing things right. There is a right and orderly way to do things.

1-16 Towards God

17-34 Towards each other

Chapter 12: Spiritual gifts

Spiritual Gifts

v1 Mustn't be ignorant

v3 The Holy Spirit can be discerned by what comes out

v4 The one Spirit will reveal himself in different ways

v7 The Spirit does manifest himself differently in different people; but this manifestation is given for the 'Common Good';

v8f There are different kinds of gifts

v11 Can ask for Spiritual gift but at the end of the day it is the Spirit himself who determines what he does and what he gives and to whom (also v28 etc);

(Acts 2:38 The Spirit himself is the gift. The 'gifts of the Spirit' are simply those things that we are given to get a particular job done at a particular moment.)

v12ff We are given to the Church (Common Good) and we belong to each other;

v30 The greater' gifts are the ones which 'build up the Church'. These are the ones we are encouraged to desire – not ones which are for our own benefit (tongues) but ones which build up the Church.

Chapter 13: Love

The greatest gift is Love

LOVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN ALL OF THIS

LOVE IS CENTRAL

Without love we can do all sorts of amazing things but neither we nor anyone else gains anything (v2)

Without love we can do all sorts of amazing things but actually be very discordant (v1);

v4 to 8 'Love is ...'

Love will last forever – everything else will pass away

Love is shown in respect for others ...

Chapter 14: The gift of Prophecy and Tongues

v1 Firstly, as Paul has just extensively written, follow the way of Love

Secondly, eagerly desire spiritual gifts – don't say 'I don't need them' or 'I don't want them'

The Lord loves us, he loves the world, he wants to help us worship him, follow him and become like him (this is the fruit of the Spirit) and he wants us to be involved in 'rescuing' the world (and he gives us the power and prophetic gifts of the Holy Spirit to enable us to do that);

v2 Tongues speak to God and have personal value (v4) but little common value (v4);

v3 Prophecy however is God speaking to us which has great common value (v4);

v7 The gifts need to be identified and distinguished

v12 Try to excel in gifts that build up the Church

THIS IS MY DESIRE FOR MINEHEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

v13 If a prophetic word is given in a tongue then it must be followed by an interpretation (ideally by the person who gave the prophecy in the first place);

v16 and 17 Singing in tongues is for personal edification (which is OK) but let us do it together (v23);

However (v19) it is better to speak a thousand words which can be understood than three which can't (but this still does not mean that we shouldn't speak in tongues together or quietly to ourselves);

v20 We've got to be mature about this (not stifled) but grown up – this is not child's play.

v23 There are dangers in the use of Spiritual gifts and in particular the impact it has on 1. those who might be in the Church but who do not understand about these things (so study and prayer are important) and 2. on an unbeliever. 'Nut cases!'

v24 and 25 However, in other gifts (prophecy – when God puts his finger on something that needs to change in the Church or in a life) this will show that God is at work and that he sees all things. This will produce repentance and worship.

v26 Charismatic worship and the use of charismatic gifts can be (indeed must be) orderly. Most people, if not 'everyone', have something to contribute (not all at the same time (v27) but in order). Again this is for the strengthening of the Church

The gift can be and should be controlled by the individual (v28 and more significantly v32) on occasions by keeping quiet and by speaking to himself and God.

v29 Prophets should speak and others should weigh it up (this is different to 'Teaching' and 'Preaching')

v33 God is not a God of disorder but of order and peace – order can be beautiful!

v39-40 Be eager for the gifts but everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way to the Glory of God.

Conclusion

1 Desire the gifts

2 Use the gifts

3 The gifts bring glory to God and not disrepute

4 For yourself and your own edification

5 More importantly for the Church and her edification

6 Others are more important than you

7 Love (not pride or prejudice) is the only acceptable way