

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Order in the Assembly
– Part II

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Free Resource

Westminster Books has made available a number of free chapters on fear and anxiety. You can access these materials for free at:
<https://www.wtsbooks.com/collections/read-slow>

CROSSWAY
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Theme: In his love God has ordered our steps so let us love one another by ordering our assembly.

Introduction: The Bible makes clear, repeatedly, that “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8). It also makes clear that God orders our steps (Prov 20:24). And so we see that both love and order come from the Lord. They are attributes of God, demonstrated supremely in the gospel. In this passage we see how love and order must come together in the assembly of God’s people.

Here are 3 ways our gatherings should be ordered:

1. Order in speech (26-33)

We have seen that there are a variety of speech gifts and they are good for the church. All things are to be done for edification.

Specific instructions are applied to the use of the gifts. We need to embrace these instructions as convictions so that we exercise them biblically.

Uninterpreted tongues in the public meeting, for example, go against the instructions Paul provides. They don’t edify the church. Prophecy is preferred because it edifies by its intelligibility, though first it must be weighed (evaluated).

God is a God of peace and order. True spirituality reflects these truths.

2. Order in gender (33-35)

These verses are very grating to modern ears, and for that reason many try to exclude it or explain it away.

The command for women to “be silent” cannot mean that they are not to speak at all, or else we can’t make sense of other Scriptures (cf. 1 Cor 11:5). This command to keep silent is just the 3rd use—see also vv. 28 and 30.

First Timothy 2:12 contains a similar command for women, reflecting the distinction in authority and our roles as men and women.

The call for wives to ask their husbands at home is an indirect command for husbands to be students of God’s word so they can lead their wives and children.

3. Order of authority (36-40)

Paul adopts a stronger tone in these verses. We are to ‘desire’ prophecy and to ‘not despise’ tongues. The emphases are clear and distinct.

There is a great danger in claiming to hear from God and not knowing and obeying his revealed word.

Questions:

1. How does God intend for our speech to edify others? How do Paul’s instructions inform your understanding and convictions regarding true spirituality?

2. For men: are you a student of God’s word so that you understand and are faithful to apply God’s word to those under your care?

3. Do you value subjective experience above the objective, revealed truth of God’s word?