

Week of August 10, 2025 - Do Everything in a Decent & Orderly Manner | Small Group Lesson 31

Connect

Can you recall a time when you had something to share, but someone else interrupted and started to speak over you before you could finish? How did it make you feel? If not, can you imagine this situation and how you might feel?

Verses - 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

26 What then, brothers and sisters? Whenever you come together, each one has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Everything is to be done for building up. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, there are to be only two, or at the most three, each in turn, and let someone interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, that person is to keep silent in the church and speak to himself and God. 29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should evaluate. 30 But if something has been revealed to another person sitting there, the first prophet should be silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that everyone may learn and everyone may be encouraged. 32 And the prophets' spirits are subject to the prophets, 33 since God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should be silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak, but are to submit themselves, as the law also says. 35 If they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home, since it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. 36 Or did the word of God originate from you, or did it come to you only? 37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, he should recognize that what I write to you is the Lord's command. 38 If anyone ignores this, he will be ignored. 39 So then, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But everything is to be done decently and in order.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. In verse 26, Paul says that when you come together, each person has a contribution. What is the singular, ultimate purpose Paul gives for all these contributions? And how about for the gifts themselves?

2. What specific rules does Paul give for the use of tongues (v.27-28) and prophecy (v. 29-31) in a church gathering? What is the purpose of these restrictions?

3. Paul writes that prophets' spirits are "subject to the prophets" (v.32). What does this mean in practice, and how does it relate to the idea that "God is not a God of disorder but of peace" (v.33)?

4. Considering that Paul often challenged man-made rules that caused division, how does his teaching here be a reminder of staying unified in Christ?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi suggests that in our modern context, our individual "prophecies" often happen in small groups or informal gatherings. Like the Samaritan woman, what testimony or recent experience of God's goodness can you share that would build others up?

Discuss 2:
If we are to have the goal of edification — how does seeing church as a place where we all contribute, rather than just passively receive a "service," change the way you approach church?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.