

First Corinthians 14:1-12
Godward Edification in the Congregation part 1

Communicate clearly to build up the congregation, not yourself—14:1-5

- The gift of languages alone has no place in the public meetings of the congregation
- 1) The commands—14:1
 - a) ¹ *Pursue love,*
 - b) *and eagerly seek the things of the Spirit (cf. 12:31), but especially that you^{pl} may prophesy.*
- 2) The reason for the commands—14:2-3
 - a) Why?
 - i) Negative uncertainty—² *For the one who speaks in a language does not speak to people but **to God**, for no one understands; but he speaks mysteries in the Spirit.*
 - ii) Positive clarity—³ *But the one who prophesies speaks ...*
 - (1) *edification, and encouragement, and comfort **to people**.*
- 3) Principle—14:4-5
 - a) Statement—14:4
 - i) Negative—⁴ *The one who speaks in a language edifies himself,*
 - ii) Positive—*but the one who prophesies edifies the congregation.*
 - b) Comparison—14:5 ⁵ *I want you^{pl} all to speak in languages, but even more that you may prophesy; for the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in languages, unless he translates, so that the congregation may receive edification.*

Communicate clearly so the congregation can understand you—14:6-12

- The gift of languages alone has no edification value to others in the congregation
- 1) Legitimate questions—14:6-8
 - a) Benefit—⁶ *But now, brothers, if (3rd class condition) I come to you^{pl} speaking in languages, how will I benefit you^{pl} unless I speak to you^{pl} either in a revelation or in knowledge or in prophecy or in teaching?*
 - b) Confusion—⁷ *Even inanimate things producing a sound, whether flute (wind) or a harp (strings), if (3rd class condition) they do not produce a distinction in the notes, how will anyone recognized what is being played on the flute or the harp?*
 - c) Uncertainty—⁸ *For if (3rd class condition) the trumpet produces an unclear sound, who will prepare himself for the armed conflict?*
- 2) The application—14:9-12
 - a) Speak with clarity—⁹ *In the same way you^{pl}, unless (3rd class condition) you^{pl} produce intelligible speech with the tongue, how will anyone recognize what is being said? For you^{pl} will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ There are, perhaps (4th class condition), a great many kinds of language [*phone*] in the world, and none of them is without meaning [*aphonos*]. ¹¹ Therefore, if (3rd class condition) I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner [*barbaros*] to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.*
 - b) Speak to benefit others—¹² *In the same way you^{pl}, since you^{pl} are zealots for things of the Spirit (cf. 12:1), eagerly seek that you^{pl} may be advantageous toward the edification of the congregation.*