

First Corinthians 14:20-25  
Godward Edification in the Congregation part 3

**Summarizing of his teaching—14:20-22**

- 1) Reinforced with commands—14:20
  - a) Concerning **immaturity**
    - i) Don't be childish—<sup>20</sup> *Brothers, do not be children [paidion] in your<sup>pl</sup> thinking;*
    - ii) Be childlike—*instead in wickedness be infants [nepiazol],*
  - b) Concerning **maturity** *but in your<sup>pl</sup> thinking be mature [teleios].*
- 2) Defended with a summary paraphrase from Isaiah—14:21 <sup>21</sup> *In the Law it is written,*
  - a) Positively—*“In other languages and in other speech I will speak to this people (i.e. Israel); (cf. Deuteronomy 28:49; the invading Assyrians in Isaiah; Acts 2)*
  - b) Negatively—*and even then they will not listen to Me, says the Lord.”*
  - c) Foreign languages were a sign of God's judgment upon unbelieving Israel.
- 3) Applying mature thinking rooted in unmistakable principles of Scripture—14:22
  - a) Concerning the use of foreign languages—14:22a <sup>22</sup> *So then, languages are for a sign,*
    - i) Negatively—*not to those who are believing,*
    - ii) Positively—*but to the unbelieving; (i.e. those outside the congregation)*
  - b) Concerning the use of the common language—14:22b *but prophecy is ...*
    - i) Negatively—*not for unbelievers*
    - ii) Positively—*but for those who are believing.*

**Practical application for congregational services—14:23-25**

- 1) Negatively—Are you insane?—14:23 (the value of using foreign languages)
  - a) The possible situation <sup>23</sup> *Therefore, if [3<sup>rd</sup> class condition] ...*
    - i) *the whole congregation comes together in one place and everyone speaks in languages,*
    - ii) *and untrained or unbelieving people enter,*
  - b) The possible conclusion resulting in additional alienation
    - i) *will they not say that you<sup>pl</sup> are insane? (assumed Yes)*
- 2) Positively—What a great God!—14:24-25 (the value of using the common language)
  - a) The possible situation <sup>24</sup> *But if [3<sup>rd</sup> class condition] ...*
    - i) *everyone prophesies,*
    - ii) *and an unbelieving or untrained person enters,*
  - b) The possible conclusion resulting in genuine worship
    - i) Immediate results
      - (1) *he is convicted [elengcho] by everyone,*
      - (2) *he is called to account [anakrino] by everyone.*
      - (3) <sup>25</sup> *And in this way the secrets [kruptos] of his heart are disclosed [phaneros],*
    - ii) Ultimate result
      - (1) *and in this way, having fallen down [aor. act. ptc.] on his face, he will worship [fut. act. ind.] God, declaring [pres. act. ptc.] that God is unquestionably among you<sup>pl</sup>.*
  - c) One of the purposes of the public meetings of the congregation is that if/when an unbeliever attends, they are brought to the place where they acknowledge, “I ought not be living as I do (i.e. I am a unworthy sinner) but must be changed by this holy God to make me pleasing in His sight.”