

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—²⁰ *Brothers, do not be children [paidion] in your^{pl} thinking;*
 - ii) Be childlike—*instead in wickedness be infants [nepiazol],*
 - b) Concerning **maturity** *but in your^{pl} thinking be mature [teleios].*
- 2) Defended with a summary paraphrase from Isaiah—14:21 ²¹ *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 ²² *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 ²³ *Therefore, if [3rd 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^{pl} are insane? (assumed Yes)*
- 2) Positively—What a great God!—14:24-25 (the value of using the common language)
 - a) The possible situation ²⁴ *But if [3rd 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) ²⁵ *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^{pl}.*
 - 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.”