

First Corinthians 14:26-32
Godward Edification in the Congregation part 4

The current situation in Corinth—14:26

- 1) The question—²⁶ *What is it then, brothers?* (cf. 14:15; i.e. what is the church to do?)
- 2) The congregational service in Corinth—*whenever you^{pl} come together, ...* (cf. 11:17, 18, 20, 33, 34; 14:23)
 - a) Potential chaos—*each one of you^{pl} ...* (just the men, in light of “brothers”?)
 - i) *has a psalm, [psalmos]*
 - ii) *has a teaching, [didache]*
 - iii) *has a language, [glossa]*
 - iv) *has a revelation, [apokalupsis]*
 - v) *has an interpretation. [hermeneia]*
 - b) The crucial principle—**All** (emphatic) *things must be done for edification.*

Specific examples of congregational speech—14:27-32

- 1) Speaking in foreign languages—14:27-28
 - a) Possibility—²⁷ *If* (1st class condition) *anyone speaks in a language, [glossa]*
 - i) Restrictions re: speaking
 - (1) How many?—*there should be only two or at most three,*
 - (2) In what order?—*and each in turn, (i.e. one after another)*
 - ii) Restriction re: interpreting—*and someone must interpret. [diermeneuo]*
 - b) Probability—²⁸ *But if* (3rd class condition) *there is no interpreter, [diermeneutes]*
 - i) Public silence—*he must refrain from speaking in the congregation;*
 - (1) He must know in advance that his language can be interpreted, or he should not speak out loud.
 - ii) Private meditation/prayer—*and let him speak to himself* (emphatic) *and to God.*
- 2) Prophecy in the congregation—14:29-32 (NB their absence in 1st & 2nd Timothy & Titus)
 - a) The limitations of prophecy—14:29
 - i) Limited numbers—²⁹ *Two or three prophets [prophetes] should speak,*
 - ii) Limited authority—*and the others [allos] should evaluate. [diakrino]*
 - (1) cf. 12:10; 1st Thessalonians 5:20-22
 - b) The deference in prophesying—³⁰ *But if* (3rd class condition) *revelation [apokalupto] is made to another who is seated, the first must refrain from speaking.* (i.e. stop talking and sit down)
 - i) The speaker stood while the congregation sat.
 - c) The purposes of prophecy—14:31
 - i) The ubiquity of prophecy—³¹ *For you^{pl} are all able to prophesy [propheteuo] one by one,*
 - ii) The purposes of prophecy—*so that ...*
 - (1) Discipleship—*all may learn [manthano]*
 - (2) Encouragement—*and all may be encouraged. [parakaleo]*
 - d) The self-control of prophecy in the congregation—14:32
 - i) ³² *And the spirits of the prophets [prophetes] are subject [hupotasso] to the prophets. [prophetes]* (i.e. the Spirit and the person control the use of the gift)
 - (1) The reason for this is explained in 14:33.