

4. Orderly worship reflects the nature of God. (1 Corinthians 14:26-33a)

5. Personal desires are not the essential of worship.
(1 Corinthians 14:33b-40)

Table Talk

- 1) How “others oriented” are you in your desires for spiritual growth? Why do we tend to think of spiritual growth in terms of personal enrichment and development rather than the building up of the body of Christ? How can we move away from the personal enrichment definition and more toward the building up of the body definition?
- 2) In what way is the gift of prophecy more selfless and the gift of tongues more selfish? (vv. 4-6, 9-11) Does Paul see any profit for others when one person speaks in tongues? (vv. 7-9) Why not? What two illustrations does he offer?
- 3) What should be the goal in using our spiritual gifts? (v. 12) Why does Paul believe that we should engage our minds as well as our spirits in worship? (vv. 15-17) What are some ways to do that? What is more important to Paul than speaking in tongues, even though he did speak in tongues?
- 4) In what ways should we try and in what ways should we avoid being like a child as worshipers (v. 20) How are tongues a sign to Jewish unbelievers? (v. 22; see also Isa. 28:11-12; Joel 2:28-32) How are tongues a deterrent to Gentile unbelievers? (v. 23) In what ways does prophesying minister to unbelievers? (vv. 24-25) Paul assumes that unbelievers and outsiders will be present during the large group worship of the church. How can we make that happen more frequently? What can we do to make large group worship more conducive to outsiders understanding the Gospel?
- 5) What rules does Paul establish regarding how the gifts of tongues and prophecy should function in a local assembly? (vv. 26-32) How does orderly worship rightly reflect the character of God? Why is Paul insistent on the silence of women in the Corinthian church? What broader implications does this have regarding the insistence of our own way in worship? When can worship desires become worship defiance? (vv. 33-39)