

# 1 CORINTHIANS

gospel formed worship



## OVERVIEW FOR PART 5: GOSPEL FORMED WORSHIP

Paul has been addressing the liberties and freedoms God has afforded the Corinthian Christians in regard to their everyday lives in the world. Now, he is going to address how they enjoy and practice their liberty and freedom in the gathering of the Church together.

The dominant theme throughout these four chapters is honor. Paul wants them to consider how they honor God and one another in their gatherings. The gathering of the Church is not meant to be a place where we exalt self and primarily seek opportunities for self-expression or fulfillment. The goal of our gathering together is to glorify God, make much of Jesus and consider how we might encourage or equip others. Of course, as we do this, we will also benefit ourselves since we were made to serve and it is in serving that we also thrive.

In each section Paul wants the Corinthians and us to remember how the Gospel forms our worship. We need to consider how the truths of who God is, what he has done in Christ and who he has created us to be as his Church should shape how we gather together for worship. The gospel of Jesus Christ deeply impacts how we gather together as his people.

## **PART 5: WEEK SIX - Prophecy and Tongues**

*Text: 1 Corinthians 14: 1-25*

Paul has been walking the Corinthians through spiritual gifts and the way of love. He expands on both by comparing speaking in tongues and prophecy. All proper use of gifts should lead us to greater connection, greater community, and greater unity. Although all spiritual gifts proclaim Jesus is lord, Paul shows that not all gifts are beneficial in every context. Instead, He tells the Corinthian church to pursue spiritual gifts in love - specifically prophecy in gatherings.

What happens when we use spiritual gifts for our own benefit? Paul confronts the Corinthians on speaking in tongues, asking what benefit it serves if there is no one to receive. He instructs the Corinthians to refrain from speaking in tongues unless there is an interpretation given. Instead, Prophecy in love which results in building up, encouragement, and consolation of the church. Building up, leading to growth. Encouragement, leading to greater boldness to follow Jesus. Consolation, leading to comfort and reassurance in God's love.

We are servants not consumers - imagine a gathering where everyone came to participate and bless others with spiritual gifts. Like the Corinthian church, what would it be like if we all came expecting to use our spiritual gifts?

The Corinthians, like many people today saw themselves as the primary beneficiaries of gifts instead of stewards who bless others with spiritual gifts. Paul challenges the Corinthians to engage spiritual gifts in a way that builds up the body instead of themselves.

## **Read: 1 Corinthians 14: 1-25**

1. God has gifted His people with the Holy Spirit in order to love others to the fullest, share the gospel, and proclaim Jesus is Lord. What does this tell us about the character of God?
2. In light of the gospel, how does God want use to interact with spiritual gifts?
3. Paul mentions speaking in tongues and prophecy as gifts for different receivers. How can we use both of these gifts in love to glorify God?
4. God has gifted believers with prophecy through the Holy Spirit to build up, encourage, and console. In what ways are you being lead to bless others with this spiritual gift?
5. Paul is clear that spiritual gifts used outside of love can be fruitless. In what way have you used a gift without love and what was the result?
6. How can we help one another other to use our gifts to contribute to the gatherings, this group, and to the people and place where we are on mission?