

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

- 20 Brothers,
do not be children
in your thinking.
Be infants in evil,
but
in your thinking
be mature.
- 21 In the Law it is written,
“By people of strange tongues
and
by the lips of foreigners
will I speak to this people,
and
even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”
- 22 Thus
tongues are a sign
not for believers
but for unbelievers,
while prophecy is a sign
not for unbelievers
but for believers.
- 23 If, therefore,
the whole church comes together
and
all speak in tongues,
and
outsiders or unbelievers enter,
will they not say
that you are out of your minds?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

24 But if
all prophecy,
and
an unbeliever or outsider enters,
he is convicted by all,
he is called to account by all,
25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed,
and so, falling on his face,
he will worship God
and
declare
that God is really among you.

1. What has Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians 14 been so far? Why did Paul emphasize "the mind" in last week's passage?
2. What are the commands that Paul gives in v. 20? How do those commands pick up on the theme in last week's section?
3. What was Paul calling for the Corinthians to have mature thinking about?
4. Where else has Paul used the language of being a child vs. being mature? Do you think there is a connection between these instructions?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

5. What is the function of the command, “be infants in evil”? What does this command mean?
6. How does v. 21 help us understand v. 20?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 14:20-25 again.

7. In v. 21 Paul quotes from Isaiah 28:11-12. Read Isaiah 28:1-13. What is this section about? What do vv. 11-12 predict? Who is the audience of those speaking with strange lips and a foreign tongue?
8. In both Isaiah 28:12 and 1 Corinthians 14:21 what is the result of those speaking in foreign languages?
9. What does Paul conclude about tongues from this OT citation in v. 22? What are some implications of this teaching for the church today?
10. If speaking in tongues is a sign for unbelieving Jews, who is prophecy a sign for?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 14:20-25 again.

11. What is the hypothetical scenario Paul lays out in v. 23? What is the gift being practiced? What is the result?

12. How is v. 23 demonstrating that tongues are a sign for unbelieving Jews?

13. What is the scenario that Paul lays out in v. 24-25? What is the gift being practiced? What is the result?

14. How is v. 24 demonstrating that prophecy is a sign for believers?

15. How is this passage significant for Paul's argument in the chapter?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

16. How should your thinking about the gifts be shaped by this passage?

17. How should your interaction with other believers in the church be shaped by this passage?

18. What are other specific ways you can apply this passage?