

First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

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.

33 As in all the churches of the saints,
34 the women should keep silent
in the churches.
For they are not permitted to speak,
but
should be in submission,
as the Law also says.
35 If there is anything they desire to learn,
let them ask their husbands
at home.
For it is shameful for a woman to speak
in church.
36 Or
was it from you that the word of God came?
Or
are you the only ones it has reached?
37 If anyone thinks that he is a prophet,
or
spiritual,
he should acknowledge
that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.
38 If anyone does not recognize this,
he is not recognized.
39 So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy,
and
do not forbid speaking in tongues.
40 But
all things should be done decently
and
in order.

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1. Note the conceptual brackets of v. 33 and 40 – what is Paul talking about in this paragraph? How does this paragraph related to the theme of this chapter? Remind yourself what the main argument of chapters 12-14 is all about.

2. What is the command that Paul gives in v. 34?

3. What is the context for this command?

4. Is this only for the Corinthian church? How do we know? What does this command convey about the Corinthians' practice?

5. How does Paul further explain the command for women not to speak in v. 34?

6. In light of the emphasis in chapter 14 on speaking in tongues and giving prophecy, what kind of "speaking" is Paul limiting among the women? Is Paul indicating that women many not speak at all when they are at church? How do we know?

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7. To whom or to what is the submission that Paul calls for referring?

8. Where in the Bible might Paul be referring when he says, “as the law also says”?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 14:33-40 again.

9. How would women exercising the public speaking gifts in the church be a violation of the created order?

10. What is the alternative Paul suggests for women who would speak up in church? What does this assume about the husbands?

11. What is the reason Paul gives for his instruction in v. 35? In what way would this be shameful?

12. How do vv. 33-35 fit in the larger discussion of the section?

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13. How are vv. 36-40 functioning in the context of the section (ch. 12-14) as a whole?

14. What are the 2 questions Paul sarcastically poses in v. 36? What is the obvious answer to both? Why does Paul pose these questions?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 14:33-40 again.

15. Who is Paul addressing in v. 37? Note: the word for “spiritual” here is the same word used in 12:1 and 14:1 and is translated as “spiritual gifts”.

16. Based on our study in 1 Cor so far, who might Paul be using this connotation of “spirituals” to refer to?

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17. What does Paul command those who think they are prophets and the spirituals do?
18. How does Paul view what he is writing to the Corinthians? What are some implications of this?
19. What is Paul's command for those who fail to recognize apostolic authority?
20. What is the connection between v. 38 and v. 39?
21. Where else does Paul command that they earnestly desire to prophesy? How are vv. 39-40 functioning?
22. Why does Paul include the command to not forbid speaking in tongues?

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23. How do Paul's commands in v.39 impact us today based on our understanding of 1 Corinthians and the cessation of tongues and the passing away of prophecy with the completion of NT revelation?

24. How does the command in v. 40 impact us today?

25. What have you learned from our study in 1 Corinthians 12-14 about life in the church?

26. How can you be a more faithful church member based on what you've learned in this section of Scripture?

27. How has your understanding of the sign gifts been shaped by this section? What questions do you still have about sign gifts specifically or spiritual gifts in general?

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In preparation for Sunday, pray for congregational unity, love, and edification to be pursued at SWBC. Pray for submission to the Word of God in every area of our lives, especially the difficult ones. Pray for the proper use of the gifts that God has given to our body for the building up of the saints.