

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 14:6-19

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.

***This week's passage features several conditional statements. A conditional statement is usually in some sort of "if" "then" construction. In this passage, the particular conditionals are merely hypothetical situations Paul brings up to illustrate and teach his point. The "if" portion poses the hypothetical scenario and is in italics and the "then" or result portion is bolded.

6 [Now, brothers,]

if I come to you

speaking in tongues,

how will I benefit you

unless

I bring (speak) you some

revelation

or

knowledge

or

prophecy

or

teaching?

7 *If even lifeless instruments,*

such as

the flute

or

the harp,

do not give distinct notes,

how will anyone know what is played?

8 And

if the bugle gives an indistinct sound,

who will get ready for battle?

9 So with yourselves,

if with your tongue you utter speech

that is not intelligible,

how will anyone know what is said?

For

you will be speaking into the air.

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10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world,
and

none is without meaning,

11 but

if I do not know the meaning of the language,

I will be a foreigner to the speaker

and

the speaker a foreigner to me.

12 So with yourselves,

since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit,

strive to excel in building up the church.

13 Therefore,

one who speaks in a tongue

should pray

that he may interpret.

14 For

if I pray in a tongue,

my spirit prays

but

my mind is unfruitful.

15 What am I to do?

I will pray with my spirit,

But

I will pray with my mind also;

I will sing praise with my spirit,

but

I will sing with my mind also.

16 Otherwise,

if you give thanks with your spirit,

**how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving
when he does not know what you are saying?**

17 For

you may be giving thanks well enough,

but

the other person is not being built up.

18 I thank God

that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

19 Nevertheless,

in church I would rather speak five words with my mind

in order to instruct others,

than ten thousand words in a tongue.

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1. Summarize in one sentence the point of 14:1-5.

2. How does Paul address the Corinthians in v. 6? What does this say about Paul's view of and concern for the Corinthians? How should that impact how we interact with those who disagree regarding the use of spiritual gifts?

3. What is the situation that Paul envisions in v. 6? What does Paul imply the benefit of this would be?

4. What does Paul say would bring benefit to the Corinthians in v.6? Why would this be the case based on what we learned in 14:1-5?

5. What are the 2 illustrations that Paul uses in v. 7-8? What are the 2 results in the illustrations? What is the point of these illustrations pointed out in v. 9?

6. What is the connection between spiritual benefit and knowledge that you see in these verses?

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7. What does Paul mean that the tongues speaker “will be speaking into the air” in v. 9?
8. What is the problem Paul is pointing out in v. 10-11? What is the solution he offers for the Corinthians in v. 12?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Cor 14:6-19 again.

9. What is Paul’s exhortation for the tongue’s speaker in v. 13 based on what he said in vv. 6-12? What is the purpose for this exhortation? How does this fit Paul’s argument in the whole chapter?
10. What is the connection between v. 13 and v. 14?
11. What are the contrasting approaches to prayer and thanksgiving Paul lays out in v. 14-17?
12. How does this explanation (in v. 14-17) fit what Paul was emphasizing and arguing for in v. 7-11?

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13. What is the conclusion that Paul draws in v. 15?

14. What would be the outcome of giving thanks only with spirit?

15. Why does it matter if no one can say “amen”?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Cor 14:6-19 again.

16. How does Paul explain this problem in v. 17?

17. How could these verses be helpful in addressing the approaches some who advocate an approach to speaking in tongues that stresses speaking in random sounds that are unknown to anyone?

18. How does Paul’s conclusion in v. 18-19 sum up the argument he is making in this chapter?

19. How do you think v. 19 would have landed with the Corinthians?

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20. How does this passage fit Paul's argument in the chapter? How should that land on us and impact how we think about our interaction with other believers in the church?

21. What is in your heart as you interact with and serve other believers in the church? How should the message of this chapter instruct and possibly correct and rebuke you?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for hearts and minds to be bent to the will of God revealed in the Word of God by the power of the Spirit of God. Pray that we would rightly understand and apply the truth of this passage to our interaction with one another at SWBC.