

## "What The Church Should Be Like," Part 2 - 1 Corinthians 14:26-32 – March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- Today's teaching will be part two of new a series we began last week titled, "What The Church Should Be Like."
- Towards the end of the chapter we've turned a corner of sorts in the sense that Paul is now addressing the church as a whole.
- Whereas previously Paul started by addressing the church worship service, he now deems it necessary to address the church.

- I would argue, the overall worship service within the church will never be in order, if the church as a whole isn't first put in order.
- It seems the church in Corinth had gotten off track, which is why Paul is correcting them and this very specifically as we'll see.
- This because, the Corinthian church as a whole was not being edified nor was this church a place where they worshiped God.

### **1. The Church should be a place where we worship God (Verses 21-25)**

- Paul says it's only the prophetic Word that causes people to fall down and worship God exclaiming, "God is really among you."

### **2. The Church should be a place where we're built up (Verses 26-29)**

- v26 Paul tells them when they come together as a church, everything they do must be done so that the church may be built up.
- v27-28 He provides them with specific instructions concerning the speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues as well.
- v29 He then tells them that only two or three prophets should speak, and that everyone else should weigh carefully what is said.

- These verses seem to indicate that they all wanted to draw attention to themselves, which was creating chaos and confusion.
- To me, this explains why it is Paul says what he says about only allowing two or three to speak in tongues with interpretation.
- It also explains why he tells them that the others who didn't speak in tongues or prophecy should weigh carefully what is said.

Galatians 1:8–9 (NIV) — 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

Acts 17:11–12 (NKJV) — 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

- If you're anything like me and I suspect that you are, you get the impression that no one or no thing is to distract us from this.
- Nothing should distract us from the worship of God when in church, and the building up of the body of Christ while at church.
- In part, this is the purpose of church such that people are equipped for works of service, and the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4:11–13 (NIV) — 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

### **3. The Church should be a place where we're instructed and encouraged (Verses 30-32)**

- v30 Paul tells them that if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.
- v31 He explains why saying that all can prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.
- v32 He goes on to say that the spirits of the prophets are subject to the control of prophets.

- I find what Paul says here rather interesting and this for a number of reasons not the least of which is it clears up confusion.
- Namely, that of someone saying that the Spirit of God had overwhelmed them and they just couldn't help doing what they did.
- Paul makes it very clear that though they manifest the gifts of the Spirit, they are never out of control because of the Holy Spirit.

- This single handedly refutes those who claim that they are barking in the Spirit, laughing in the Spirit or being drunk in the Spirit.
- While I realize the Corinthian church had not gotten this aberrant, I suppose you could say they were getting dangerously close.
- The reason being is that the gifts of the Spirit should never become the focus of the church, rather, worship and the Word is.

The size of the church should never be the focus of the church either. Last week I happened upon a very interesting article about a mega church pastor by the name of Andy Stanley, who is the Senior Pastor of North Point Community Church, Buckhead Church, Browns Bridge Church, Gwinnett Church, Woodstock City Church, and Decatur City Church, and founder of North Point Ministries, which is a worldwide. In a recent sermon, the mega church pastor was quoted as saying, that people who go to small churches, "are so stinkin selfish." ...According to the Christian Post, on Friday, Pastor Andy Stanley issued an apology on social media for a recent sermon in which he said that people who go to a small church "are so stinkin' selfish."

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/andy-stanley-apologizes-for-saying-people-who-go-to-small-churches-are-so-stinkin-selfish-158928/>

- Here's the bottom line, the only way to do church is when the worship of God and the Word of God are the focus of the church.
- This is the only way that any of us, as the body of Christ, can ever hope to be equipped, built up, instructed and encouraged.
- Simply put, this is how the church should be, namely, a place that creates an environment that is conducive to this taking place.

I'll close with what one commentator wrote concerning this, as I think it sums it up perfectly, "The goal of coming together as a church is not to be entertained, nor even to be "pleased" with a "blessing." We gather for edification, for the spiritual building up we need to live lives that glorify Jesus Christ outside the walls of the church. ... Our Christian lives are lived on the outside, and we come to be strengthened, built up, and equipped when we come together as a church family.