

# RULES FOR TONGUE TALKING

## TAMING THE UNBRIDLED TONGUE

*"Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and  
forbid not to speak with tongues."*

~ 1 Corinthians 14:39

### 1. Tongue Talking Reactions

- a. Tongue talking is the most esteemed worldly skill (after rocket science, brain surgery)
- b. When Christians do it? Peculiar, bizarre, unclear, confusing, Spirit-filled? Unbridled
- c. Two common teachings: "How to loose the tongue", "tongues have ceased!"
- d. Neither is the Biblical approach, which was to give rules for talking in tongues (1Cor 14)

### 2. Unknown Tongues

- a. Languages separate people: God created tongues to scatter men - Gen 10:20, 11:7
- b. Not understanding each other was a curse - Ps 55:9, Jer 5:15
- c. God promised future restoration of a pure language - Isa 19:18, Zeph 3:9
- d. The Spirit sent into a gathering of Jews who spoke different languages - Acts 2:4-6
- e. The tongues were identified, the utterance was known, they all heard - Acts 2:7-12
- f. Tongue talking was to bring people together in understanding: clear communication.

### 3. Rules for Tongue Talking

- a. The Spirit (and tongues) also given to members of one Body from many nations.
- b. [*There is a more excellent way (12:31), you have a greater gift, and perfect power.*]
- c. It was being abused, causing confusion, and by some forbidden (sound familiar?)
- d. *"I would ye all spake with tongues", "I speak... more than ye all", "forbid not" 5,18,39*
- e. Rule #1 – Speaking in meetings should edify, exhort, comfort the church - 14:3
- f. Rule #2 – Rather prophesy, which is greater than speaking with tongues - 14:1-5
- g. Rule #3 – Speak to profit with revelation, knowledge, prophesying, doctrine - 14:6
- h. Rule #4 – Speak with words that give meaning and understanding – 14:9-13
- i. Rule #5 – Pray, sing, bless with words known to others - 14:14-17
- j. Rule #6 – Rather speak fewer words of understanding than more in tongues - 14:19-20
- k. Rule #7 – Speak tongues to unbelieving Israel (Isa 28:11-13, Deu 28:49) - 14:21-22
- l. Rule #8 – Only one at a time, at least two, not to exceed three - 14:23-27
- m. Rule #9 – If there is no interpreter, be silent in the church – 14:28
- n. Rule #10 – Prophets speak 2 or 3, with the one not speaking being the judge - 14:29-30
- o. Rule #11 – All may prophesy one by one – 14:31
- p. Rule #12 – You can control your gift – 14:32
- q. Rule #13 – God wants peace in the church, not chaos – 14:33
- r. Rule #14 – Their women not to speak in tongues in churches – 14:34
- s. Rule #15 – Acknowledge what Paul writes is of the Lord – 14:37
- t. Rule #16 – Forbid not to speak in tongues – 14:39
  - i. Jews to this day read their scripture in Hebrew (no Greek Bible!)
- u. There are many more rules for right speech - Col 3:16, 4:6, Eph 4:15, 4:29-33, 2Ti 2:16
- v. From Paul after, the word of God spoken, interpreted, transmitted in many languages.