

Christ Fellowship

Series: I Corinthians
Lesson 26
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“The Letter to the Church of God which is at Corinth”

The Goal Is Not Exhibition, But Edification, Done Properly And Orderly!

- I. Introduction, 1.1-9
- II. The problem of divisions in the Corinthian Church reflects a misunderstanding of the apostolic message and messenger, 1.10—4.21.
- III. The Various Disorders in the Corinthian Church Arose from Their Failure to Make Wise Moral Decisions, 5.1—6.20
- IV. Difficulties raised by the Corinthians are discussed, 7.1—15.12.
 - A. Difficulties concerning marriage are discussed, 7.1-40.
 - B. Difficulties concerning Christian liberty are discussed, 8.1—11.1.
 - C. Difficulties concerning the role of women and the observance of the Lord's supper are discussed, 11.2-34.
 - D. Difficulties concerning spiritual gifts are discussed, 12.1—14.40.
 1. The diverse spiritual gifts are all given by the same Spirit in order to build up the body of believers, 12.1-11.
 2. The principle of unity and diversity of gifts in the church is illustrated by the human body, 12.12-31a.
 3. The exercise of love in the life of the church should be pursued more than the exercise of gifts because of the superiority of love, 12.31b—13.13.
 - a. Love is superior to the gifts because without love all gifts are meaningless, 12.31b—13.3.
 - b. Love is superior to the gifts because of its selfless characteristics, 13.4-7.
 - c. Love is superior to the gifts because it endures beyond the gifts, 13.8-13.
 4. The gift of prophecy is preferred over the gift of tongues because prophecy edifies the church and convicts unbelievers while tongues do not, 14.1-25.
 5. The meeting of the local church should be conducted in an orderly manner in order to bring edification, 14.26-36.
 - a. The governing principle for the exercise of gifts in the assembly is the edification of the church, 14.26.
 - b. The gift of tongues should be exercised by two or three men in turn with interpretations following, 14.27-28.
 - c. The gift of prophecy should be exercised by two or three men in turn with evaluation following, 14.29-33.

For an extended discussion of the gift of prophecy in particular, and of the temporariness of certain gifts, see an online paper: www.christfellowship.com/pdf_forms/prophecy_position.pdf
 - d. The women should be silent in the meeting because it is shameful for them to speak in church, 14.34-36.
 6. In summary, the gifts should be preferred according to their respective value for the church and should be exercised in a proper and orderly way, according to the divine command, 14.37-40.