

What We Bring to Worship

1 Corinthians 14

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:12 (ESV)

So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

Three *questions* to ask about the **actions** and **attitudes** we bring to public worship

1. Does what I bring to worship seek to build other people up?

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (ESV)

For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:3 (ESV)

On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

1 Corinthians 14:4 (ESV)

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

1 Corinthians 14:5 (ESV)

Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

1 Corinthians 14:6 (ESV)

Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

1 Corinthians 14:7 (ESV)

If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played?

1 Corinthians 14:8 (ESV)

And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

1 Corinthians 14:9 (ESV)

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.

1 Corinthians 14:10 (ESV)

There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning,

1 Corinthians 14:11 (ESV)

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.

1 Corinthians 14:12 (ESV)

So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

2. Does what I bring to worship aim at clarity and understanding?

1 Corinthians 14:13 (ESV)

Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:14 (ESV)

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

1 Corinthians 14:15 (ESV)

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.

1 Corinthians 14:16 (ESV)

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?

1 Corinthians 14:17 (ESV)

For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

1 Corinthians 14:18 (ESV)

I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

1 Corinthians 14:19 (ESV)

Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

1 Corinthians 14:20 (ESV)

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

1 Corinthians 14:21 (ESV)

In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord."

1 Corinthians 14:22 (ESV)

Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

1 Corinthians 14:23 (ESV)

If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

1 Corinthians 14:24 (ESV)

But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,

1 Corinthians 14:25 (ESV)

the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

3. Does what I bring to worship promote order and peace?

1 Corinthians 14:26 (ESV)

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

1 Corinthians 14:27 (ESV)

If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:28 (ESV)

But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.

1 Corinthians 14:29 (ESV)

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.

1 Corinthians 14:30 (ESV)

If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent.

1 Corinthians 14:31 (ESV)

For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,

1 Corinthians 14:32 (ESV)

and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.

1 Corinthians 14:33 (ESV)

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,

1 Corinthians 14:34 (ESV)

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.

1 Corinthians 14:35 (ESV)

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.

1 Corinthians 14:36 (ESV)

Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached?

1 Corinthians 14:37 (ESV)

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.

1 Corinthians 14:38 (ESV)

If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

1 Corinthians 14:39 (ESV)

So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:40 (ESV)

But all things should be done decently and in order.