

Questions

1. What are some ways in which you experience order and structure that God designed?
2. Read Psalm 1:1-3. Describe the contrast in what the person might be hearing and in the outcomes that result. Are there ways in which you can find yourself absorbing worldly wisdom instead of meditating on the Lord's instructions?
3. How does it seem that Paul was using the words *spirit* and *understanding* in verses 13-19, and why are both important to our involvement in corporate worship and serving? Do you tend to lean out of balance toward one or the other?
4. In his short work on 1st John 2:15, the Scottish minister Thomas Chalmers offers wisdom on how believers can turn from loving worldly things and instead love the Lord. He says we do so "not by exposing the worthlessness of the former but by addressing to the mental eye the worth and excellence of the latter." To do that, we must fix our minds on all that is lovely about the Lord. What are some practical ways that you can confront your love for something worldly with truths about what is lovely about your Savior?
5. In 1st Corinthians 14:26-36, order and limitations were placed on the exercise of spiritual gifts that were being used in chaotic ways. What does this tell us about the people's capacity for restraint and submission? Do you ever give excuses for a sinful lack of self-control?
6. What are some ways that you are contributing to (or might begin to contribute to) the smooth and orderly functioning of GBC? Can you identify someone or something at Grace that serves in such a way that it helps draw you toward the Lord? In what way(s) can we continue to grow in this?

For Further Reading: *The Expulsive Power of a New Affection* (2020) by Thomas Chalmers

Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.

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1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH MIGHTY CHRIST

All Things Decently and in Order

1 Corinthians 14 (part 2)

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September 6, 2026

As we saw last week, First Corinthians 14 is a challenging chapter in its instruction about the spiritual gifts of prophecy and languages. But it also holds an underlying message about God-glorifying beauty in the order, structure, and limits that exist for our corporate worship and service. Today, we'll see four desirable qualities that should mark our worship and service, and that can display order and yield appealing fruit.

Guiding principles from 14:1 that help govern our corporate worship and serving:

1. Love (Pursue love) – love God and love our brethren
2. Serve (Desire spiritual gifts) – be faithful to use the gifts and power God gives to serve His body

A third guiding principle from 14:40 & 14:33:

Do everything decently and in order because God is a God of order.

Distinctive

Orderly

Integrated

Decorous