

A painting of a church with a bell tower and a cross on top. The church is set against a background of warm, orange and red hues. The entire image is overlaid with thick, dripping paint in various colors: orange, red, blue, and dark brown. The paint drips are most prominent on the left and right sides, creating a 'messy' or 'splattered' effect.

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH
MIGHTY CHRIST

First Corinthians 14 is a challenging chapter that has divided Christians over the gifts of prophecy and tongues. Today, we'll see how GBC has traditionally viewed those gifts, even as we are reminded of the importance of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts in the gathered body of believers.

1 Corinthians 14:1, 39-40

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

³⁹ So then, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

⁴⁰ But everything is to be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:2-5

For the person who speaks in a tongue' is not speaking to people but to God, since no one understands him; he speaks mysteries in the Spirit.

³ On the other hand, the person who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement, and consolation. ⁴ The person who speaks in a tongue builds himself up, but the one who prophesies builds up the church...

Acts 2:7-8

They were astounded and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ How is it that each of us can hear them in our own native language?

1 Corinthians 14:10-11

There are doubtless many different kinds of languages in the world, none is without meaning.

¹¹ Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker will be a foreigner to me.

1 Corinthians 14:21

**It is written in the law,
I will speak to this people by people of other
tongues and by the lips of foreigners,
and even then, they will not listen to me,**

1 Corinthians 14:2, 4

For the person who speaks in a tongue' is not speaking to people but to God, since no one understands him; he speaks mysteries in the Spirit...

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

1 Corinthians 14:28

But if there is no interpreter, that person is to keep silent in the church and speak to himself and God.

1 Corinthians 14:5

I wish all of you spoke in tongues, but even more that you prophesied. The person who prophesies is greater than the person who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets so that the church may be built up.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

If all are prophesying and some unbeliever or outsider comes in, he is convicted by all and is called to account by all. ²⁵ The secrets of his heart will be revealed, and as a result he will fall facedown and worship God, proclaiming, “God is really among you.”

1 Corinthians 13:2

If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge...

1 Corinthians 14:29-30

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should evaluate. ³⁰ But if something has been revealed to another person sitting there, the first prophet should be silent.

1 Corinthians 14:3

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

1 Thessalonians 2:2-4

...we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition.

³ For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive. ⁴ Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather God, who examines our hearts.

Ephesians 2:19-20

...God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

Ephesians 4:29

No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.

Romans 15:14

My brothers and sisters, I myself am convinced about you that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

John 16:7-8

**I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you.
⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment:**