

Due to a medical emergency that occurred during our service on March 22, 2026 the sermon had to end early. These are the notes from the passage. Use these in conjunction with the discussion questions to aid in your study of the text.

## **1 Corinthians 14:26-40**

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### Big Idea

Orderly worship allows the whole church to learn, be encouraged and built up and reflects the character of God.

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### Introduction: Why This Passage Matters

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul addresses disorder in the gathered worship of the church. The issue is not a lack of spiritual gifts—but a misuse of them. Instead of building one another up, the Corinthians were creating confusion.

Paul's aim is not to restrict worship, but to guide it so that:

- the church is strengthened
  - the gospel is made clear
  - God's character is rightly reflected
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### **I. Worship Is Participatory and Meant to Build Up (v.26)**

“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.”

#### What This Shows Us

The early church gatherings were active and participatory:

- Hymn → Singing truth together (Colossians 3:16)
- Lesson → Teaching from God's Word
- Revelation (prophecy) → Encouragement and exhortation
- Tongues + interpretation → Communication that must be understood

## Key Principle

“Let all things be done for building up.”

Worship is not centered on personal preference or individual experience, but on the edification of the whole church.

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## II. Order Is Essential for Edification (vv.27-35)

Without order, even good things can become harmful. Spiritual gifts are meant to serve others, not create confusion.

### A. Order in Tongues (vv.27-28)

- Limited to two or three speakers
- Spoken one at a time
- Must be interpreted
- If no interpretation → kept private

**Principle:** If it does not build others up, it should not be expressed publicly.

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### B. Order in Prophecy (vv.29-33a)

- Limited to two or three speakers
- Others weigh what is said by the authority of Scripture
- Done one at a time
- Meant for learning and encouragement

“For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” (v.33)

Worship should reflect God’s nature—clear, peaceful, and ordered.

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### C. Order for Women (vv.33b-35)

“As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches...”  
(vv.33b-34)

#### 1. Not Absolute Silence

This is not a command for women to be completely silent in all aspects of church life.

Earlier, Paul assumes that women “pray and prophesy” (1 Corinthians 11)

Women were actively speaking and participating and using their gifts in the church.

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## 2. The Immediate Context: Order in Worship

Paul is continuing his focus on order in the gathered church:

- regulating tongues
- regulating prophecy

This likely connects to the weighing and evaluation of prophecy (v.29), where discernment and authority are exercised. Women were speaking out, calling out questions to their husbands or interjecting their thoughts while others are speaking. They were adding to the chaos and disruptions happening within the church. This is what prompts Paul to call for their silence in the church.

*His concern is not participation in general, but maintaining order and clarity in their worship gatherings.*

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## 3. God’s Design Includes Order and Distinction

*“For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.” (v.34b)*

**Submission** → Humbly deferring to the appointed qualified men in church leadership to weigh in and evaluate spiritual matters like prophecy. (Ref. 1 Timothy 2:11-13)

When Paul says **“as the Law says”** → Referring back to the creation order of things in Genesis 2. Adam created as the head, Eve as the helper. Both esteemed and deeply valuable, neither better than the other just with different complimentary roles.

- This is not about value or ability, but about God’s wise design.
  - Questions then should not be called out in manner that will bring shame upon them, they should wait to ask their husbands privately. The goal again being to maintain order in worship.
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## III. Submission to God’s Word (vv.36-40)

“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.” (v.37)

Spiritual maturity is shown through submission to God's Word. Paul is correcting their idea that they are the center of everything.

## Final Instructions

- Desire to prophesy
- Do not forbid tongues
- Do all things decently and in order

*"But all things should be done decently and in order." (v.40)*

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## IV. The Gospel Foundation for Order

- God Himself is a God of order (Father, Son, Spirit)
- Sin brings confusion and disorder
- The gospel restores clarity, peace, and purpose

Jesus' Example:

- submitted to the Father's will
  - died to redeem sinners
  - brings order to disordered hearts
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## Final Application

Christian worship is not about:

- personal preference
- individual expression
- appealing spiritual

It is about:

- building up the church
  - reflecting God's character
  - making Christ clear
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## Final Takeaway

When our hearts are rightly ordered by Christ, our worship will reflect it.