

# LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

## citygroups

Summer 2022

Week of July 17th

1 Corinthians 14

### DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): 1 Corinthians 14

Supporting Texts: 1 Corinthians 11, the Book of Acts

**MAIN IDEA:** The goal of any gifting or spiritual gift given by God is to build up the church. They are not solo projects.

### OBSERVE

Does “eagerly desire” the spiritual gifts mean that one can choose which gift they receive (v. 1)? *No. It simply means that we should desire the gifts but the Spirit is the determining factor of which gift(s) one will receive (see 1 Cor 12). Prayer to God for the gifts (v. 13) is the key.*

Why does Paul prefer the gift of prophecy to the gift of tongues and why might he be saying this in vv. 1 – 5?

- a. *Tongues is specified as speaking to God (v. 2). Many have indicated that this means an angelic language or a private prayer language but every circumstance of this gift’s appearance in the book of Acts points to a real human language but unknown to the speaker (Acts 2:4 – 11; 10:44 – 48) or is unspecified (Acts 19:1 – 7).*
- b. *By Paul saying that tongues edifies the speaker only, he is indicating that no one else understands what he is saying (v. 2) unless someone interprets the unknown language.*
- c. *Prophecy is something that is spoken to people rather than God and people know what is being said, therefore, it edifies the church rather than simply the speaker (v. 4). It is not necessarily a better gift but it is one that is needed in that church more than tongues and Paul spent a chapter (1 Cor 12) talking about the necessity of unity in diversity.*

What is Paul’s point in vv. 6 – 19? *The gift of tongues is not the problem. The lack of interpretation is the problem. Apparently, this was happening in the church at Corinth and the church was not being edified but was probably being divided between the “super spiritual” and the rest. Paul uses several human analogies to discuss how a noise is just a noise unless there is clear distinction in the notes and purpose. Although Paul*

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*decidedly states that he speaks in tongues (he has this gift), he does not put as high of a value on it as the Corinthians do. Instead, he would rather speak in clear words to the church (v. 19).*

What is the purpose of tongues and the purpose of prophecy in vv. 20 – 25 and why does it matter? *Paul describes the importance of not being like children in their thinking but being innocent like children in their behavior (v. 20). An outsider may come in and see tongues taking place and while it is a sign to them of the miraculous, it will mean nothing unless interpreted. In fact, Paul warns that they will believe that the worshippers and tongue speakers are “out of their minds” (v. 23). On the other hand, while prophecy is for believers, an outsider will comprehend the message and may be convicted and convinced (vv. 24 – 25).*

How can Paul command women to be silent in the churches in 1 Corinthians 14 (vs 34) when he says that women can pray and prophesy in 1 Corinthians 11? *The command for women to be silent must be understood in the context. Just as the command for the tongue speaker to keep silent doesn't forbid him from ever saying anything in the church, the command for women to be silent does not assume that in all situations women cannot speak. The explicit situation in which women must be silent is where prophecies are being evaluated as legitimate. This type of evaluation would have involved teaching and exercising authority over the church (which are two activities that Paul consistently denies to women). (Men And Women In The Church, DeYoung)*

### INTERPRET

What does vs 27-29 tell us about how we should approach speaking in tongues? Why does Paul put these boundaries in place?

God in his grace doesn't want us to be confused in worship. He wants us to know the scriptures and worship without distraction. Where do we see this truth in this chapter?

### APPLY

Looking at the Main Idea, what is a spiritual gift that you believe God has given you? How can you use that to build up City Church?

As a way to build each other up in our groups, what are some spiritual gifts that others in the group display? (Maybe a gift that somebody else displays that they are unaware of)

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City Groups exist as an extension of our Sunday gatherings, providing an environment for spiritual formation through intentional study, prayer, and fellowship, to equip Christ followers to make disciples.