

1 Corinthians 14:1-25
"It's Time to be Holy"

"Let us be motivated by compassion rather than compulsion." (Carter Conlon)

Introduction:

1 Corinthians 14:1-3, "Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² 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. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation."

1. If we don't do anything else:

2. Our pursuit of love should also lead us to desire the gifts that:

3. The ability to prophesy empowers us to:

4. It is important to know which gifts are for personal communication with the Lord:

5. To upbuild, encourage and console the body:

1 Corinthians 14:4-5, "The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ 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. There is nothing wrong with encouraging:

2. It is even better to desire those gifts that:

3. Paul wanted the believers in Corinth to be able to:

1 Corinthians 14:6-12, "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? ⁷ If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? ⁸ And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹ 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. ¹² So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church."

1. There is no benefit to the body of Christ if revelation and knowledge is:

2. We wouldn't want to dance to instruments that only play one note:

3. We wouldn't want a trumpet that didn't clearly call us to battle:

4. If we truly want the Holy Spirit to manifest His gifts:

1 Corinthians 14:13-20, "13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 15 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. 16 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? 17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. 18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature."

1. If one has the gift of a prayer language:

2. Because we are to be about the business of renewing our minds:

3. Because agreement in prayer is so important:

4. Paul was not correcting this church out of jealousy:

5. A spiritually mature person would much rather seek the good and well-being of others:

6. Children are fascinated with the unusual and sensational:

1 Corinthians 14:21-25, "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.' 22 Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. 23 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? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, 25 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."

1. Tongues were a sign of God's judgment in the Old Testament:

2. Prophecy is intended for edification of those who are already believers:

Conclusion: