

Tongues

Premise: The practice of speaking in tongues that we see in many churches cannot be the valid gift of tongues because it does not align with Biblical teaching about tongues.

1. The legitimate gift of tongues involved the speaking of real languages. Acts 2:5-13
2. One of the main purposes of the legitimate gift of tongues was to validate or authenticate the ministry of the Apostles and New Testament prophets during the time of transition when the Gospel was spreading to the known world and new groups of people were being brought into the church. (The outline for this progression is found in Acts 1:8.)
 - Jerusalem and Judea Acts 2
 - Samaria Acts 8:14-17
 - The ends of the earth Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-18
 - Old Testament believers Acts 19:1-7
3. The legitimate gift of tongues was not intended for everyone.
 - 1 Corinthians 12 is about the unity and diversity in the church, the body of Christ
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28
 - 1 Corinthians 12:30
4. The legitimate gift of tongues was to come to an end on its own. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10
5. All speech in the church must be for the edifying and profit of fellow believers and not for personal edification 1 Corinthians 14:1-19 (Hebrews 10:24)
 - Prophesying is superior to speaking in tongues 14:1-5
 - Speaking in tongues is of no profit to the church if no one understands 14:6-19
6. The legitimate gift of tongues was intended to be a sign to unbelievers (particularly unbelieving Israel). 1 Corinthians 14:20-22
7. When speaking in tongues is practiced illegitimately (in a dominant, uncontrolled, and unintelligible way) it is a hindrance to evangelism. 1 Corinthians 14:23-25
8. Even the practice of legitimate tongues had to be restricted in the following ways:
 - It had to be for edification. 1 Corinthians 14:26
 - Only two, or at most three, could speak, they had to take turns, and there had to be an interpreter. 1 Corinthians 14:27-28
 - It could not lead to confusion. 1 Corinthians 14:33
 - Women could not speak in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:34-35
 - Speaking in legitimate tongues was not to be forbidden. 1 Corinthians 14:39
 - Everything had to be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40

Application: Ephesians 1:3-14; Colossians 2:10; 2 Peter 1:3ff; 1 John 5:11-12