

We already have learned from chapter 3 that these folk are carnal. They are opposite of spiritual. They give in to the desires of the flesh and looking at this church according to the Scriptures, they are in ruin. The culture of the day had come in and heavily influenced the church at Corinth. This ought to be a warning for you and I. They had taken the culture and pagan practices of their day and mixed it with Christianity.

This church was in bad spiritual shape. There was hatred among each other, some were suing each other, and they had made a mockery of the Lords Supper. They were not spiritual, but what they desired most was to appear spiritual. They acted in the power of the flesh. All eyes were on themselves, not on the Lord. This caused them to be in competition with each other and with other churches. In this competition, they would try and outdo each other to appear to be super spiritual. They sought and desired those things that appeared spiritual to the eyes of men; they were seeking what God hasn't given.

The devil is always trying to copy what God does. The devil can transform himself into an angel of light; therefore we know he can appear super religious. Surely he will offer counterfeit worship to the church. If you don't know the Scriptures you and I can easily be led astray with what appears to be spiritual; but in fact it isn't what God has given.

verse 33- For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

When a church is following the Lord it will also be a place of peace, not of confusion.

confusion- instability; disorder; commotion; confusion, tumult.

This leads to a people who are unruly and are all about magnifying self. Picture the church house being unruly, and picture what the charismatics do today. It is no doubt unruly and a magnifying of the flesh. It is counterfeit worship and they are seeking what God hasn't given.

Verse 40- Let all things be done decently and in order.

order- arrangement, disposition, series. In proper order, orderly.

No confusion, no commotion, and no disorder. This is how the church is supposed to be. When flesh wants to take over there will be mass confusion. Remember that flesh wants to be magnified and to appear what it is not.

Verse 1- but rather that ye may prophesy.

Notice that the emphasis here is on prophesying. Many ask, what is prophecy? Like many other words and terms, the word prophecy has been marred by the charismatic movement. It literally means to speak before somebody else. Not in a competition. Not trying to cut someone off and get your two cents in before they do so you get the honour and glory. It simply means someone is to stand up before everyone else, the church, and speak the Word of God.

This edifies the church.

Verse 26b- Let all things be done unto edifying.

Flesh wants to feel special and religious, so it wants to do things that fulfill its desires. If it appears that I have a conversation with God, then I must be super religious.

As we go to verse 2 keep verse 1 in mind: we are to prophesy because it edifies the church. If we don't know what you are saying, you aren't edifying the church.

verse 2- notice the contrast with verse 3 then look at verse 4. Self and church. Edifying self is selfish, and unbiblical.

verse 5- greater is he that prophesieth- why, because he edifies the church. The person who is preaching and teaching the Word of God is helping the church.

Ephesians 4:11-16.

When you look at the spiritual gifts tongues are always last; it is the least gift.

Verse 6- no profit unless he gives them the Word of God in words they can understand.

Verses 7-10- certain sounds and we know how to respond. Ambulance etc...

Verses 11-12- notice in verse 12 where we are to excel at; to the edifying of the church.

Verses 13-17- but the other is not edified.

Verses 18-22- the only other book of the New Testament that we find where any one spoke in tongues is in Acts; it was a sign gift. A sign to the Jews. The Jews require a sign and Greeks seek after wisdom.

Now, remember that God is not the author of confusion.

Verses 23-28-

Verses 29-31- do you see the order here. No commotion or confusion and no competition. They are taking turns proclaiming the Word of God unto edification.

Verses 32-33-

Verses 34-35-

Verses 36-40-

The church at Corinth were seeking for a gift that God hadn't given. They were in competition with each other and with other churches. They were not doing things properly and orderly. They are a church that no one should want to be like. Let's continue having a high standard of the Word of God and continue being a church which brings honour and glory to God, not to man. To God be the glory.