



# The Lord's Command

1 Corinthians 14:26-40



## Bottom Line # 1 (26)

- What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, another tongue, or an interpretation. Everything is to be done for building up.



## What should tongues-speakers do? (27-28)

- If anyone speaks in another tongue, there are to be only two, or at the most three, each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no interpreter, that person is to keep silent in the church and speak to himself and God.

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## What should prophets do? (29-33)

- ▶ Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should evaluate. But if something has been revealed to another person sitting there, the first prophet should be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that everyone may learn and everyone may be encouraged. And the prophets' spirits are subject to the prophets, since God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

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## A summary for speakers in church

- ▶ Take turns
- ▶ No more than three
- ▶ Interpret tongues
- ▶ Evaluate prophecies
- ▶ Control your spirits

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## What should women do? (33-35)

- ▶ As in all the churches of the saints, the women should be silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak, but are to submit themselves, as the law also says. If they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home, since it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.



## Paul's authority and church practice (36-38)

- Or did the word of God originate from you, or did it come to you only? If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, he should recognize that what I write to you is the Lord's command. If anyone ignores this, he will be ignored.



## Silent? When

- At times, tongues-speakers are to “keep silent” in relation to the context of tongues-speaking
- At times, prophets are to “keep silent” in relation to the context of giving prophecies.
- When are women to keep silent? And in what context?



# Things I know for sure

- ▶ Women have freedom to pray and prophecy, to minister and teach
- ▶ The call to silence is only in the context of the formal church meetings
- ▶ The reasons Paul gives here, and teaching in other passages, clarify what kind of speaking is not accepted:
  - ▶ Speaking that disrupts peace
  - ▶ Speaking that shames self or others
  - ▶ Speaking that is formally teaching men in the church meeting context
  - ▶ Speaking that upsets the creation order of men and women
- ▶ Paul was deeply blessed by the ministry of many women

# Count the women: Romans 16, Philippians 4

- ▶ I commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, who is a servant of the church in Cenchreae. So you should welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may require your help. For indeed she has been a benefactor of many—and of me also.
- ▶ Give my greetings to **Prisca** and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life. Not only do I thank them, but so do all the Gentile churches. Greet also the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epaenetus, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia. Greet **Mary**, who has worked very hard for you. Greet Andronicus and **Junia**, my fellow Jews and fellow prisoners. They are noteworthy in the eyes of the apostles, and they were also in Christ before me.
- ▶ I urge **Euodia** and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I also ask you, true partner, to help **these women who have contended for the gospel at my side**, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the book of life.

Any formal  
speaking

Speaking in  
tongues or  
prophecy

Evaluating  
prophecy

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## The importance of these commands (36-38)

- Or did the word of God originate from you, or did it come to you only? If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, he should recognize that what I write to you is the Lord's command. If anyone ignores this, he will be ignored.

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## Bottom Line #2 (39-40)

- So then, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in other tongues.
- But everything is to be done decently and in order.



# Where do we go from here?

- If what happens here
  - builds up the body
  - Is done decently and in order
  - **Then we should keep doing it!**