

The Greatest Good with the Greatest Gift

The outline for 11-14:40

Head covering matters in worship, 11:2-16

Problems with the Lord's Supper and worship, 11:17-34

The "haves" and the "have nots," 11:22

Spiritual gifts and worship, 12:1-14:40

Your gifts are not for your personal agenda, but for the common (everyone's) good, 12, cf. 12:7

Gifts exercised without love for Christ and the recipient give the user a zero on the final exam, 1 Cor 13, 13:2, 3

Therefore, pursue love and desire gifts that edify, 1 Cor 14, 14:1

Love and gifts, 14

What about the specific gifts in this passage?

Tongues and prophecy

Paul said they both would cease (13:8). They have today.

Both gifts involved verbalization-communication.

What was the gift of tongues?

It was speaking in a partly unintelligible language as a sign of a genuine apostolic ministry. The apostles have faded off the scene and the gift of tongues did as well.

KJV says unknown tongue, that is not necessary

What was the gift of prophecy?

It is not the same gift as the ministry of an Old Testament prophet.

It was some gift of communication that leads to "strengthening, encouragement and comfort," (14:3) to edification (14:3, 4, 5, 12, 17, 26), and to instruction (14:19, 31). The word has to do primarily with the qualitative growth of the church but can also apply to the quantitative growth of the church.

So if these gifts are off the scene, we don't need this passage, right?

God did not give gifts for the entertainment of his church, but for the edification of his church.

The church in every generation needs to be built up, to grow: YOU NEED TO GROW! Phil 3:12-14

You need to take off old sinful patterns and put on new ones, Eph 2:22-24

This will require conviction of sin if it is to happen.

It requires a goal of Christ-likeness if it is to happen.

The church still needs God's revelation to edify it.

The gift of prophecy has to do with revelation. It seems that until the apostolic record was complete (the Bible), some had this gift.

This requires expository preaching.

God has given gifted leaders to the church that need to be followed, Eph 4:11, 12

God has given us one another to hold us to change.

"Provoke one another to love and good deeds"

Get together not for "men's night out" or "girls night out" or "senior saints night out." Or for Antioch fish fry.

The church needs intelligibility

14:7, 8, 9, 11

We are in the communication business

The church still needs the Spirit to be at work through his revelation for edification to happen

For teaching

For correction

For correction

For training in righteousness, 2 Tim 3:16

What does this mean to me?

Would you pray that God would teach you to be more like him?

Would you pray that you'd be convicted of your sin?

**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, 1
John 1:10**

Would you pray that God would change you deeply and genuinely?