

# Amen!

Long Beach Alliance Church • February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself;  
but one who prophesies edifies the church.  
Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues,  
but even more that you would prophesy; and  
greater is one who prophesies than one who  
speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that  
the church may receive edifying.

~1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:4-5 (NASB)

## 1) Out Of Love Flows Many Wondrous Gifts...

- A) Reminding us of the great love of Jesus Christ detailed in the previous section (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4-8), Paul again highlights the supremacy of Christ's love as the true source (14:1) of spiritual living (gifts, words, actions, etc.).
- B) The "pursuit" of love is not a mysterious pursuing of the concept of love, but an all-out pursuit of the perfect manifestation of love in this world, Jesus Christ!
- C) From this love of Jesus Christ develops a passion (desire) for "spiritual things" (14:1). This includes many "gifts, ministries, and effects" (12:4-6) for the "common good" (12:7), or building up (edification) of the church (14:12).
- D) The result of "building up" the community should magnify and clarify our pursuit of spiritual things (14:2-5).

## 2) Contrasting The Effects Of Spiritual Things

- A) Utilizing two primary Spirit-enabled ministries/gifts (tongues & prophecy), Paul illustrates the priority of those things which build up (edify) the whole community in corporate worship settings (14:5).
- B) Both tongues (Spirit-led speech unknown to the speaker and uninterpreted by others) and prophecy (Spirit-led speech known by both the speaker and listener) were provided by God to the church for God's glory.
- C) Logically, things which are intelligible for the whole church community (prophecy, interpretation of tongues, revelation, knowledge, teaching, etc.) are more edifying (14:5-6).
- D) Like an instrument which has different purposes (for music or military purposes; 14:7-8), those things done in the church should be done for the edification of the many, not for the edification of one person, or the few (14:9-12).

## 3) Mindless Worship vs. Mindful Worship

- A) Uninterpreted tongues, because they are a Spirit-led ministry which only edifies the speaker in their own spirit (14:2, 4) and does not engage the mind/intellect (14:14) is not appropriate for group gatherings (14:16).
- B) Deference in our group gatherings should be allocated to those things which build up the church in the most intelligible manner possible, in spirit & intellect (14:15).
- C) While there is no criticism of Spirit-led tongues (14:18-19), our church experiences should engage our mind and spirit for the unity (Amen!) of the whole church community!