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***Managing What We Say In Church***

(1 Corinthians 14)

How the message is to be managed in public worship settings.

In the exercising of our spiritual assets in community…

1. In the matter of church community life, spiritual assets are for strengthening, encouraging, comforting – building up (14:1-5).

2. The message must be clear (14:6-25).

In the case of prophecy versus tongues, tongues have no public value unless they are interpreted – in this, the ability to prophecy is greater.

* How can anyone guess a song if there is no commitment to the known notes?
* Serious times call for clarity in messaging “Advance or retreat?”
* If you’re going to use words, meaning matters.

Having people understand God’s truth is above any personal experiences you may have.

* Tongues have no public value unless interpreted because others are alienated from the message.
* Tongues are not so much a cause for ecstatic celebration as a reminder (sign) to unbelievers that their rejection of truth has condemned them to not understand (20-22; Is. 28:11-12).
* Tongues in this text have no evangelism value (23).
* Prophecy is intelligible and convicting and is what God uses to bring people from unbelief to belief or from far away back on track.

Ecstatic utterances, mysterious musings, and motivational psycho-babble do not pass the clarity test and have no value in the church of any era.

3. In the public worship setting the messaging must be dynamically structured and verifiably accurate (14:26-30).

The primitive church… (cultural)

* Highly participatory
* Highly spontaneous
* Highly structured and orderly
* Highly scrutinized

The Present Church… (trans-cultural)

* Establish multiple ministry stations for maximum participation
* Make room for the Holy Spirit
* Retain order and structure/planning and purpose
* Canon of Scripture is complete/teacher competency critical
* Preserve creation intentions in ministry roles within the genders

To do church well, spiritual assets must be engaged in their intended purpose and in their intended way so that the certain message of God is clear and the church is built up – minimize all possibilities of confusion or chaos.