

One Voice/One Direction

Corinth had a diverse group of people in their city. (Many languages)

In our time, we have many churches that have two different services, one for English and another for Spanish, for example. (I preached in Panama with a translator. Slow process!)

Can you imagine going to a service in which no one understood the language?

At Pentecost, when church was being established, there was many different groups and many different languages that were all understood.

The same with Cornelius, he was in a different region. (Paul traveled across many different areas of different languages, and we know that he spoke at least 5 different languages.

God was establishing a new thing, local churches. (Worldwide)

Ununderstood tongues would serve no purpose. Confusing. Paul said that interpreters would be helpful.

This was not some “heavenly speech” that some were gifted with. It was for reaching the people of different cultures.

We see it at Pentecost, and with Cornelius, and here. That’s it. AND this was not correct!

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Not being like everyone else, proper discernment of God’s will)

Whatever game people play with this now, from wherever it comes from, it is useless, and as Paul described it, “having the appearance of madness!”

1 Corinthians 14:1–5 (ESV)

14 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ²For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

- 1.) Purpose of a church is to grow together- (Speaking unknown to other languages can’t do that. It would be for a show.) Tonya/Cherokee for example.
- a.) Speaking God’s Word is what builds up! (Understood truth!)

- b.) Vs. 2 in KJV says “**unknown**”, which is not a good translation! Why? Not in the gk. It is an inserted word, therefore. (It is not known to man. God can understand every thought and word in any person’s language. He knows us!)
- c.) “Building each other up” is the purpose of gifts, serving, which **provides discernment!**
- d.) Ultimately hearing God’s Word understandably edifies! (They were wanting to “recreate a Pentecost experience”. But why? **For the experience and the supposed spirituality.**
- 2.) Teaching the Word for Understanding- (We tune guitars and pianos, so they sound the way they are supposed to sound.)

1 Corinthians 14:6–11 (ESV)

⁶ Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷ If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? ⁸ And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? ⁹ So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹ but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

- a.) The purpose of words is to be understood. (I hear some bible scholars that aren’t understood!)
- b.) In the parable of the soils, the seed that is in good ground produces fruit, but not the other grounds! (Let’s look)

Matthew 13:18–23 (ESV)

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

- c.) Good soil is the heart of faith. (What would be the purpose then of words not understood?)

1 Corinthians 14:13–16 (ESV)

¹³ Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

d.) I praise in my spirit sometimes, but it certainly doesn't affect anyone else but God. (So that is personal, but congregationally useless, in terms of edification.)

1 Corinthians 14:24–25 (ESV)

²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

e.) When is someone converted, certainly by hearing and understanding.

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

3. Real purpose in our worship meetings- (Ultimately disciples that make disciples.)

1 Corinthians 14:33 (ESV)

³³ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

As in all the churches of the saints,

- a.) Paul was teaching them the actual ways to serve each other so that the church could be effective, not just ritualistic and emotional.
- b.) For understanding purposes, interpretation is needed, or leave the other languages alone.
- c.) God's ways are not accomplished in confusion. (Remember that in **the fruit of the Spirit involves self-control.**)
- d.) In verse 38, Paul says the one that is confused, doesn't get recognized!

- People of truth (Clear gospel, and clear edification.)
- Able to have discernment (Remember Romans 12:2?)

1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV)

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

- The emotional desire to seem spiritual and be involved in things not understood set worship up for failure and dangerous opportunity.