

Entering In: (Ice breaker question)

What did you like or dislike about any worship services you've experienced?

If someone asked you to convince them why it's not enough to just "be spiritual," why they need to be involved in "organized religion," what would you say?

The Context:

Continuing in 1 Corinthians, this week we are in chapter 14. As we have seen in chapters 12 and 13, the brothers and sisters in Corinth have elevated gifts (especially tongues) to be evidence of true spirituality. Paul reminds them time and again that the gifts exist for the building up of the body (ch. 12) and they need to be rooted in a love for one another (ch. 13). Here in chapter 14, Paul addresses their zeal for the gifts/superior spirituality within the context of the worshipping body. If worship is the context where the body encounters the living God, then there are certain characteristics which ought to be evident.

Going Deeper

What Does Paul Say About the Local Church?

1. There is an energy and vitality of the believers.

As a response to God's great love for us (Ephesians 2:4-5a), we are to enter into His presence ready to engage our mind and our emotions.

Engage our minds intellectually. Be ready to "weigh carefully what is said." (14:29)

Engage our emotions, as God brings a conviction of sin. (14:24-25) A "Jacob moment" where God is pinning someone down.

What would be things you (or we, as a church) could do to enhance the worship service in its engagement of mind and emotion?

2. There is an exercise of the gifts. (1 Thess. 5:19-20)

How did Paul respond to the Corinthian's pursuit of spiritual gifts (14:1)? Who should they consider in their pursuit of these spiritual gifts (14:3-5)?

What is accomplished when a Christian speaks in tongues? 14:2; 14:4

What is Paul saying with his illustration of the sounds made by the flute, harp, and trumpet (14:7-8)? How does this compare with his subject of tongue-speaking (14:9)?

What would be ways that we, as a church, could integrate more people in using their gifts in worship?

3. There is edification of the body. (Romans 14:19)

Edification also means building up, advancing, making better, making bigger.

Paraclete – “come alongside”. The Holy Spirit and Barnabas are examples of “paraclete.”

If edification is “everyone’s job” (Rom. 14:19)), what are ways you use your gifts to edify the body?

Helping be accountable.

- What are you reading?
- Who are you witnessing to?
- What are some of your valleys? What are some of your mountaintops?

Encourage others from what God has been teaching you.

Comfort and cheer others.

- Love always hopes

4. There is the established Word of God.

What is the function of prophecy (14:3)? How can prophecy accomplish these things?

Why is prophecy more important for the church than tongue-speaking (14:4-5)?

5. There is the Example of God's Character

When the people of God gather, the presence of God causes that people to be like God.

Because He is here, there is order and there is beauty.

- A place of peace and not tumult. (14:33, 40)
- A place of love and selfless sacrifice. (14:1, 26)

If you are not a worshipping part of the church, you're missing the presence of God. You are not a "called out" one showing distinction from the world.

Worshipping as the church won't save you, but it will sanctify you... make you more holy... bring you to maturity.

I believe in the church, because God believes in the church.

I believe in Calvary, because God believes in Calvary.

I come to Calvary because God is here.

I come to Calvary because it is an opportunity for me to see Him building people up.

Reflect on the above statements made by Pastor Glenn in his sermon. Discuss the implications of each statement for your personal life of discipleship and the implications of the body life of discipleship.