

C. The Cultural Background

1. Christian Women Were Newly Emancipated
2. Women Were Teaching In Other Churches
3. Women Could Speak With Paul's Approval
4. Women Were Leading In Other Churches
5. Paul Wasn't After A Particular Dress Code
6. The Cultural Significance Of The "Head"
7. The Cultural Background Of The City Of Corinth
8. The Significance Of Women "Speaking" In Public
9. Key Universal Issues: Authority And Respect

II. SPEAKING IN TONGUES

A. Spiritual Gifts

1. Every Christian Has Been Given At Least One Spiritual Gift

Defined: A Supernatural Ability To Develop A Particular Capability For The Building Of The Church

"Now... regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us.... There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." 1 Corinthians 12:1,4-7 (NLT)

2. There Are All Kinds Of Spiritual Gifts
3. Everyone Doesn't Have The Same Gift Or Gift Mix

4. No One Gift Is Better Than Another
5. Gifts Exist To Serve The Mission Of Jesus And The Church

B. The Corinthian Mess

1. They Made A particular Gift Everything
2. They Misunderstood What That Gift Was And Its Use

3. It Was Freaking Out Spiritual Explorers

"I'm grateful to God for the gift.... But when I'm in a church assembled for worship, I'd rather say five words that everyone can understand and learn from than say ten thousand that sound to others like gibberish.... So where does it get you, all this speaking in tongues no one understands? It doesn't help believers, and it only gives unbelievers something to gawk at. Plain truth-speaking, on the other hand, goes straight to the heart of believers & doesn't get in the way of unbelievers. If you come together as a congregation & some unbelieving outsiders walk in on you as you're all praying in tongues, unintelligible to each other and to them, won't they assume you've taken leave of your senses and get out of there as fast as they can? But if some unbelieving outsiders walk in on a service where people are speaking out God's truth, the plain words will bring them up against the truth & probe their hearts. Before you know it, they're going to be on their faces before God, recognizing that God is among you."

1 Corinthians 14:18-19,22-25 (Msg)

4. Paul Told Them To Stop It

III. TAKEAWAYS

- A. The Way We Act Should Never Prevent Someone From Evaluating Jesus And His Claims

- B. Spiritual Gifts Are Not For Personal Fulfillment But For Fulfillment Of Jesus' Mission

**C. Open The Front Door Of The Church As Wide As Possible
By Removing Every Barrier Except The Scandal Of The Cross**

“Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized - whoever. I didn’t take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ - but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I’ve become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn’t just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!”
1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (Msg)

D. That’s How Much You Matter To God

**OPENING THE DOOR
FRACTURED - Part 4
October 4, 2026
Jerry Clonch**

I. THE APPEARANCE AND ROLE OF WOMEN

“A man dishonors his head if he covers his head while praying or prophesying. But a woman dishonors her head if she prays or prophesies without a covering on her head, for this is the same as shaving her head. Yes, if she refuses to wear a head covering, she should cut off all her hair! But since it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or her head shaved, she should wear a covering.... Judge for yourselves. Is it right for a woman to pray to God in public without covering her head? Isn’t it obvious that it’s disgraceful for a man to have long hair? And isn’t long hair a woman’s pride and joy? For it has been given to her as a covering.... ... it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together.... Women should be silent during the church meetings. It is not proper for them to speak.... If they have any questions, they should ask their husbands at home, for it is improper for women to speak in church meetings.”

1 Corinthians 11:4-6,13-15,17;14:34-35 (NLT)

A. Principles For Interpretation

1. Don’t Take A Verse/Passage Out Of Context

2. Let The Bible Interpret The Bible

3. Determine What Is Cultural, And What Is Universal

B. Two Mistakes We Can Make

1. Making The Cultural Universal

2. Noting Seeing The Universal In The Cultural Context