

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. - 1 Corinthians 14:20

I. PURSUE LOVE...AND SPIRITUAL GIFTINGS

- Love must reign supreme in the Christian congregation, but we should also ask God to provide the giftings necessary to function properly (Vs. 1).
- The Corinthians emphasized the gift of tongues. Paul emphasized the gift of prophecy (1 Cor. 12:8-10, 28, 14:5).
- The gift of tongues is for individuals. Corporately, it is a sign of judgment to nonbelievers. Prophecy is a gift to edify all who hear, particularly believers (Vss. 5-12, 20-22).
- Our worship should not solely be about individual experiences or emotional outbursts. We are to worship in spirit and truth. Our minds engaging with our hearts (John 4:23-24; 1 Cor. 14:13-17).
- The apostle Paul spoke in tongues and advocated for that practice. What he did not advocate for was the misuse of the gift, or the utilization of it that led to pride (Vss. 5, 12, 18-19).

II. INFANTS IN EVIL - MATURE IN THINKING

- Our corporate worship will include both believers and nonbelievers. Will they see confusion and chaos, or true worship and the opportunity to hear and understand the gospel? (Vss. 24-25).
- In all matters pertaining to giftings and worship, we must strive for the rejection of evil and the pursuit of Christian maturity (Vs. 20).

KNOW: The gift of a tongue (or tongues) was controversial in Paul's day, and it remains so in ours. The gift of prophecy is a gift for the edification of the body of Christ. Our goal is to desire that God will gift our local assembly with whatever is necessary to build us up and allow us to worship properly.

DO: Be infants as we think of evil. Be mature as thinking Christians.

Suggested Reading:

Keep in Step with the Spirit by J.I. Packer
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

I Am With You: The Holy Spirit and the Church by Jennie Allen
(Available in the LifePoint Kid's Library)

Next Week's Text: 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read I Corinthians 14:1-25

1. What do you think are Paul's concerns as he writes this portion of his letter to Corinth?
2. What is Paul's primary concern with "tongues"?
3. What is his concern with "prophecy"?
4. If one speaks in tongues, what else should they pray for?
5. In what ways are the Corinthians being children in their thinking? How was that to be solved?
6. How should we deal with tongues and prophecy today?
7. Are you left with questions after reading this passage? If so, how will you seek for answers?