

Introduction: The Illustration of a Construction Site

- Building a house requires a **blueprint, order, and cooperation**
 - Without order, the building cannot be completed and becomes dangerous
 - The church is the same
 - Individualistic and self-centered worship does not build God’s house
 - 1 Corinthians 14:26
 - All spiritual gifts in worship are to be used
“for edification” (oikodomē = building up)
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I. The Use of Tongues

— Without understanding, the church is not built up — (vv. 27–28)

- The problem in Corinth
 - Many speaking in tongues at the same time, causing confusion
 - Paul’s instructions
 - Two or at most three
 - In turn
 - Always with interpretation
 - If there is no interpreter
 - Remain silent in the church
 - Speak to oneself (for spiritual strengthening)
 - Speak to God (as prayer)
 - Principle
 - Worship is not about excitement but about understanding
 - Words that the whole church can say “Amen” to are essential
 - Application
 - Prayer, testimony, and service should aim at
the growth of the whole church
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II. The Use of Prophecy

— Order, discernment, and submission to authority — (vv. 29–32)

① Speak in turn and respect other prophecies

- Two or three should speak
- If another receives revelation, the first should be silent
- Principle
 - Those who prophesy must also be those who submit
 - Prophets are learners as well as teachers

② Prophecy must be discerned

- Not to be accepted blindly
- Discernment is not criticism, but a love for truth
- The church must test whether the message is truly from God

③ The standard of discernment is apostolic authority (Scripture)

- Verses 36–38
 - God’s word does not belong to a single group

- 1 Corinthians 14:33a
 - **God is not a God of confusion but of peace**
 - Apostolic writings carry the authority of the Lord's command
 - Principle
 - Any prophecy that contradicts Scripture must be rejected
 - Messages that bring confusion to God's word must be treated with caution
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III. The Issue of Women Speaking

— Consideration for maintaining order — (vv. 34–35)

- A necessary clarification
 - Paul does not prohibit women from praying or prophesying (cf. chapter 11)
 - Historical background
 - Disruptive questioning and interruptions during worship
 - Paul's intention
 - To preserve peace and order in worship
 - Principle
 - Discernment is necessary, but disorderly speech must be restrained
 - Consistent with God's character
 - Worship should reflect the God of peace
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Conclusion: The Church of the God of Peace

(v. 33, vv. 39–40)

- Why is order so important?
 - Because God is a God of peace
 - Spiritual gifts are not denied
 - Desire prophecy
 - Do not forbid speaking in tongues
 - However
 - **All things must be done properly and in an orderly manner**
 - The goal
 - That the church may be built up as one temple of God
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Call to Response

- Do I participate in worship with an attitude of mutual growth?
- Am I seeking my own benefit, or the edification of the church?
- Do I listen openly to God's word and discern it according to Scripture?
- Am I disrupting the order of worship in any way?
- Am I using my God-given gifts
 - Not for myself
 - But for the building up of the church?