

## **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)**

---

## **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**

---

## **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

---

### 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

---

### 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

---

### 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?