



“THE GIFTS”

Text Corinthians 14:33-40

In chapter 14 Paul has been giving the practical side of how the gifts are to be used. In chapters 12,13,14 Paul has been dealing with the speaking gifts.

Take away for today: _____

#1 Women can and should participate in the worship service through prayer and prophecy

- Prophecy is connected with building up, encouragement, and comfort vs 3.
- Prophecy is for our maturity.
- Paul desires that "ALL" will prophesy not just "All men" or "All males". So women can and should prophesy. Ch 11 women can pray and prophecy in the public church meetings.
- Prophecy is connected with instruction vs 19

The Big Question

If women prophesy is that teaching a man?

NO. Prophecy is not teaching.

(refer to Principles for Worship Pt 3 for reasons why)

How to know the difference between prophecy and teaching:

- If a message is a result of reflecting on the text of Scripture, containing interpretation and application to life, then it is teaching or preaching.
- If a message is the report of something that God brings suddenly to mind, then it is a prophecy.

Questions for further reflection

What challenged your thinking or beliefs from today's teaching?

What are your thoughts on women participating in roles of ministry in the church? Can women participate in different roles of ministry in the church? Which ones? Why or why not? Why do you think some churches will not allow women to participate?

Why does our culture today struggle with gender based roles in the family and in the church? How can we change our thinking and influence our culture of what God's Word teaches?

#2 God gives principles of when to be silent

Those who prophesy were subject to certain requirements vs 29-33

- Only two at the most three prophets speak. -Vs 29
- The prophets are to be subject to the prophets and what was being said was to be weighed (judged) by the "others" Vs 29
- When someone is giving a prophecy if another in the meeting had a prophecy while sitting there the one giving the initial prophecy was to "remain silent". Vs 30

Specific principle for women in the church Vs 33-35

Two questions to seek to understand:

-What does this mean for women to keep silent in the church?

-Why did Paul say this?

Are women really not allowed to speak in the church meeting? Vs 34-35

- Some people view this as saying women are not allowed to _____. The problem with this view is it goes against the _____ in the worship service in _____ and _____. Joel 2, Acts 2:17, I Cor 11:5, 14:5,24,31,39.
- Some people think Paul was being a _____ here and only going along with the _____ of the day that disregarded women. The problem with that view is that Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write these words. God _____ women and has given them _____ roles. Paul believed that both men and women could _____ in the worship service as they _____ in their God given roles.

Two beliefs of men and women's roles

- Scripture supports a _____ view of the roles of men and women in marriage, family and in the church and not _____ view. Gen. 1-2, I Cor. 11, Eph. 5, I Tim. 2, Titus 2, I Peter 3
 - Complementarianism is the belief that men and women are created _____ in their _____, value, and _____, but they have different and _____ roles and _____ in marriage, family life, and religious leadership.
 - Egalitarianism is the belief that holds that men and women are created equal in their being, value, and personhood, but egalitarianism _____ from complementarianism by teaching that there are _____ for men in the home and church.

So since Scripture supports different and unique roles of men and women, what exactly is going on here in this passage?

- What does Paul mean by women keeping silent in the churches?
- _____ is important. Paul is commanding the women to keep silent in a _____—during the the judging of prophecies where authority would be exercised over the congregation. Remember what Paul just said in verses 29 and 32?
- Although women are participating in the meeting they are not to make an _____ judgement on the prophecy _____ in the context of the _____.

- Within the context to _____ in the church, Paul follows and preserves God's _____ for men and women in the church and excludes women as _____ in the church.
- Why can't a women ask questions? Vs 35
 - It comes down to the _____ of what is being said _____ the congregation. Sometimes questions can be asked to _____ others and _____ our views.
 - Women _____ pursue _____ and she can pursue her _____ just not in a way that infringes onto an _____ . That is best suited outside the church meeting " _____ ".

Pauls teaching on this is very consistent with other Scriptures we find when it comes to women having roles in ministry:

- Women can pray and prophesy in public (1 Cor 11) but need to do so while observing proper gender roles related to authority.
 - Woman can serve in ministry and engage in the gifts but are not to be in the elder role (1 Tim 3, Titus 1)
 - Women are equal in status as heirs of Christ but still different in marriage roles (Eph 5, Col 3, 1 Cor 11)
 - And here (1 Cor 14) women can speak in tongues and prophesy but, when it comes time to exercise authority of what is being said they are to keep silent.
- It is not that they are unable to discern things. It's about maintaining gender roles.

VS 36- Corinth you're not special!

VS 37-38- The things I'm writing are a command of the Lord. If you got a problem with this take it up with the Lord.

VS 39-40- Paul doesn't forbid women from praying and prophesying in the church worship service. On the contrary, he wishes for them to do it in a way that honors male headship.