

Message #63**I Corinthians 14:23-26**

The Corinthians were a church getting all caught up with the spectacular. They had developed the philosophy that it didn't even matter what language the service was in as long as it was some religious experience.

GOD'S WAY FOR HIS CHURCH TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE, IS BY THE CLEAR COMMUNICATION OF HIS WORD.

A clear communication of God's Word is not the flashy way to influence people; it is not the entertaining way to influence people and it is not even the quickest way to influence people; but it is God's way to influence people.

It is the clear, accurate, systematic teaching of the Bible that will bring people to salvation and to sanctification. No gimmick or show or movie or play or concert will ever replace the clear exposition of God's Word.

Paul firmly and fully believed that "faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Faith is produced and developed by hearing the Word of God.

MESSAGE #1 – Speaking in tongues in a church service will produce a negative reaction from some people who are in attendance. **14:23**

Reaction #1 - The ungifted will say the people in the church are mad. **14:23a**

The word "ungifted" is a Greek word that refers to one who is without knowledge, one who is uneducated or unlearned. This particular word has to do with a lack of knowledge in a specific area, in this context the specific area of spiritual things and spiritual gifts (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 218).

If he does not know the language being spoken, he will conclude that people in this church are out of their minds.

In fact, the word "mad" is one that literally means raving mad (*Ibid.*, p. 275). This particular term was used of one thought to be demon-possessed (John 10:20 – translated "insane"). It was used of one thought to be hallucinating (Acts 12:15 – translated "out of your mind"). It was also used of one thought to be communicating things outside of reality (Acts 26:24-25 – translated "out of your mind").

Reaction #2 - The unbeliever will say the people in the church are mad. **14:23b**

Clearly the "ungifted" is one classification, referring to those who are immature in the faith, and the unbeliever is another classification, referring to one without faith, one who is unsaved. The "ungifted" is a person without knowledge; the "unbeliever" is a person without Christ.

When an unbeliever comes to church and sees a bunch of people speaking in foreign languages, he will also conclude the church is mad. In fact, we have on Biblical account in which the unbelievers concluded the whole group of tongues-speakers were drunk (Acts 2:13).

MESSAGE #2 – Clearly communicating God’s Word in a church produces positive reactions in some people who are in attendance. **14:24-25**

Prophecy was the supernatural ability to reveal direct messages from God to people in a clear understanding way. It was the ability to verbally uncover or unveil God’s Word so people could clearly understand.

Reaction #1 - Clear communication of God’s Word will cause people to be convicted. **14:24a**

The word “convicted” means to reprove by showing one his fault. It carries with it the idea of rebuking one so that one is convicted of his fault (*Ibid.*, p. 144).

Reaction #2 - Clear communication of God’s Word will cause people to be judged. **14:24b**

The word “called to account” is a forensic term, which carries with it the idea of judicially examining and investigating a person’s soul.

Reaction #3 - Clear communication of God’s Word will disclose what is in people’s hearts. **14:25a**

The word “disclose” means to make visible or to make known. The word “secrets” refers to things hidden, things concealed. God’s Word, when clearly communicated, goes deep into the crypt vaults of one’s heart and makes visible and known to a person what truly is in his heart.

Reaction #4 - Clear communication of God’s Word will produce true, humble worship. **14:25b**

It is only the clear communication of the Word of God that can humble a man to the point where he will fall down to worship God. Proclaiming the Word of God will create a very elevated concept of God and a very unworthy concept of self.

Reaction #5 - Clear communication of God’s Word will produce a God-honoring verbal testimony. **14:25c**

People who attend a church where the Word of God is soundly taught, leave the church not saying, “they are mad,” but “they have the power of God.”

MESSAGE #3 – Clearly communicating God’s Word in a church edifies the church. **14:26**

1) A church could be built up by a psalm.

- 2) A church could be built up by a teaching.
- 3) The church could be built up by a revelation.
- 4) The church could be built up by a language.
- 5) A church could be build up by an interpretation.

The best way to reach the lost, to educate the unlearned, to build up the church and to glorify God is to clearly communicate God's Word. It is the Word of God that is living and active and sharper than a two-edged sword that can pierce deep into the heart and soul and judge the thoughts and intents of the heart.