

Message #64**I Corinthians 14:27-40**

There are two key words that show up in **verse 40** that really give us insight into what Paul and God wants for His church. The word “properly” is a word that refers to something that is becoming very graceful, which reflects an elegance that is worthy of God. The word “orderly” is one that refers to a highly organized and efficient order to things that actually reflects a military-like arrangement.

ALL THINGS DONE IN A WORSHIP SERVICE ARE TO BE DONE IN A VERY OBEDIENT, GRACEFUL AND HIGHLY ORGANIZED WAY FOR THIS IS THE TYPE OF WORSHIP THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

God wants His church highly organized and well-structured. “Free-for-all” services where anything goes are not services that please God. Everything that is done is to be decent and orderly.

REGULATION #1 – The regulations for the gift of tongues . **14:27-28**

Rule #1 - The numerical rule. **14:27a**

The words “at the most” mean that three is the greatest amount God would ever allow.

Rule #2 - The “in turn” rule. **14:27b**

The words “in turn” mean that when there is need for the gift of tongues, the two or three are not to speak at the same time. They are to speak in turn or in order.

Rule #3 - The interpretation rule. **14:27c**

There is to be an interpretation or translation given by “one” person.

Rule #4 - The silence rule. **14:28**

If a translator were not present, the tongues speaker was to “keep silent,” which literally means he is to “say nothing.”

REGULATION #2 – The regulations for the gift of prophecy . **14:29-33**

Rule #1 - The numerical rule. **14:29a**

What this practically tells us is that you had to come to the services regularly if you wanted to get all of the revelatory messages of God.

Rule #2 - The judgment rule. **14:29b**

When the two or three were giving out God's revelation, the other people were to use their minds to discriminate and judge what they were hearing and to apply it to their own lives. Listening and making decisions concerning God's truth is a very important part of worship.

Rule #3 - The precedent rule. **14:30**

It was not that one truth was more important than another; it was that one truth was more urgent than another.

Rule #4 - The order rule. **14:31**

Each was to prophesy in turn and in order.

Rule #5 - The subjection rule. **14:32-33**

Even when the gift or prophecy was fully operative, it was always to be subject to the other known inspired prophets. The word "subject" is a military term which means to recognize subordinate rank.

REGULATION #3 – The regulations for married women. **14:34-35**

There is absolutely no doubt that when a married couple comes to the worship service, God takes a very close look at the relationship (i.e. Eph. 5:22-23; I Pet. 3:1-7). God clearly establishes the role married women are to fulfill, both outside of the church (i.e. Titus 2:4-5) and in the church.

We know that married women are being discussed here for at least five reasons:

- 1) The article "the" before women indicates specific women (I Cor. 14:34).
- 2) The word "subject" is only used of married women (Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:15; I Pet. 3:1, 5).
- 3) The context is clearly discussing married women (I Cor. 14:34).
- 4) Certain women could speak in the worship service (I Cor. 11:2-11; Joel 2:28).
- 5) Prophecy was a gift given to unmarried virgins (Acts 2:1-9).

Rule #1 – The silent rule. **14:34a**

Married women are commanded (imperative) by God to keep silent in the church. The context of this silence is clearly speaking in tongues and prophesying. God did not want married women speaking in tongues or prophesying in His Church. In fact, He never wanted women to teach men in His church, but to quietly and submissively receive instruction (I Tim. 2:8-15).

(Reason #1) - Married women are to keep silent because this is God's command and God's Law. **14:34b**

(Reason #2) - Married women are to keep silent because of God's structure of learning. **14:35a**

This interesting sentence makes the assumption that God can give godly married men the wisdom and ability to have great insight into His truth.

(Reason #3) - Married women are to keep silent because of improper worship. I Cor. 14:35b

God will NEVER accept worship that is not humble and submissive to His ordained leadership structure. His Church must worship Him His way.

REGULATION #4 – The regulations for proper attitudes of the Word and worship. **14:36-40**

Attitude #1 - The attitude toward the Bible. **14:36**

God's Word is the authority for the church.

Attitude #2 - The attitude of true spirituality. **14:37**

A truly spiritual church will follow these regulations and consider them to be God's commandments.

Attitude #3 - The attitude toward the rejecter. **14:38**

A man or woman who refuses to accept these teachings is to be ignored and considered to be ignorant. The word "recognize" is one that means to be ignorant.

Attitude #4 - The attitude toward spiritual gifts. **14:39**

The church is to be a place in which people find and use their spiritual gifts.

Attitude #5 - The attitude toward all worship. **14:40**

Everything done in the service is to be done properly and orderly.

If we want a church, if we want lives that worship God, they must be decent, proper and orderly. We must humbly submit ourselves to God's Word and God's will.