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3. Worship should be done in a way that is understandable (v. 15-20).

4. Tongues and prophecy have their proper uses (v. 21-25).

5. Christian assemblies should not be scenes of disorder and confusion (v. 26-33).

7 **I Corinthians 14:1-5**

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

8 **I Corinthians 14:6-11**

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching? Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a

distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.

9 **I Corinthians 14:12-14**

So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church. Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

10 **I Corinthians 14:15-20**

What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified. I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue. Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

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21 **What is speaking in tongues?**

Two theories of tongues among conservative evangelical scholars.

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- What was going on in the church at Corinth?

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- Ecstatic babbling
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- What was going on in the church at Corinth?
 - Both and Neither?

27 **Prophecy is better than speaking with tongues.**

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- Whatever you do, whatever you have to do, make sure your life is characterized by ἀγάπη love.

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- Whatever you do, whatever you have to do, make sure your life is characterized by ἀγάπη love.
- As to spiritual gifts, seek prophecy before all others.

30 **Prophecy is better than speaking with tongues.**

2 - For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries.

3 - But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.

4 - One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.

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- Prophecy is preferable to speaking in tongues because prophecy benefits the church.

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5 - Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

6 - But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching?

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- Since the purpose of spiritual gifts is to help God's people to become more like Christ, the desirability of any gift is to measured by its usefulness for that purpose.

34 **Prophesying is better than speaking with tongues.**

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- Since the purpose of spiritual gifts is to help God's people to become more like Christ, the desirability of any gift is to measured by its usefulness for that purpose.
- In order to help God's people become more like Christ, we need to say something they can understand.

35 **Spiritual gifts are for the good of the church.**

7 - Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp?

8 - For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle?

9 - So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

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- You can appreciate a musical performance only if you can recognize the pattern (tune) made by the different notes.

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- You can appreciate a musical performance only if you can recognize the pattern (tune) made by the different notes.
- Soldiers will be able to obey an order only if they can recognize the bugle call that transmits it.
- The words you speak will be useful only if people can understand them.

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- There are many different languages (voices) in the world, and every one of them can convey meaning (has a voice).
- But if the listener doesn't understand the meaning, it will all be gibberish to him.

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- There are many different languages (voices) in the world, and every one of them can convey meaning (has a voice).
- But if the listener doesn't understand the meaning, it will all be gibberish to him.
- To the ancient Greeks, a "barbarian" was someone who did not speak Greek.

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13 - Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

14 - For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

15 - What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

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- If you want to speak in a different tongue, make sure you interpret so that others may profit from the message.
- There's no place for ecstatic babbling in Christian worship
 - Your mind should worship right along with your spirit.

48 **Worship should be done in a way that is understandable.**

16 - Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?

17 - For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.

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17 - For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.

- You might have some good things to say, but they won't do anybody any good unless they can be understood.

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18 - I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all;

19 - however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.

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- In his many travels, Paul undoubtedly spoke in many different languages (tongues).
- God may have helped him in this (sometimes) through a miraculous gift of tongues, allowing him to speak languages without having to learn them.
- But those languages were for speaking to people who understood them -- not for impressing people in the church.

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20 - Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

- Meaningless babbling is for children.