The Christian is to Think!

1 Corinthians 14

“do not be children in your thinking”

The Corinthians were immature because they made secondary issues to be more important than the primary issues.

Irrefutable argument #1: tongues are clearly not forbidden in this section of Scripture.

Conclusion: we cannot forbid what God has not forbidden.

Childish Thinking

- cannot prioritize
- cannot see the big picture
- cannot discern nuance and emphasis
- easily distracted
- does not value knowledge/ignorant
Irrefutable argument #2: tongues are clearly de-emphasized in this text.

Conclusion: to emphasize something that the Apostle has clearly de-emphasized is to major on the minor, to disobey his authoritative desire.

THREE KINDS OF ARGUMENTS

• The Argument of Emphasis
• The Argument from Exclusion
• The Argument of Effect

I. ARGUMENT OF EMPHASIS

• God is a God of clarity and perspicuity. (Isaiah 28)
• The Great Commission emphasis is teaching.

II. ARGUMENT FROM EXCLUSION

• If you have all A and no B? If you have all B and no A?
• The church cannot live on tongues alone; it can live on prophecy alone.

III. ARGUMENT OF EFFECT

• The ultimate effect that we all desire is the worship of God.
• “Missions is not ultimate; God is.”
• The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever
• “falling on his face he will glorify God”
Corporate worship

- In matters of corporate worship there is an emphasis of procedure - everything is in order.
- There is an emphasis of personnel - the right people for the task.
- There is an emphasis of priority - the apostles’ message.

Corporate worship

- In matters of corporate worship there is the argument of exclusion: your way or the Apostles’ way?
- In matters of corporate worship there is the argument of effect: which way will have the effect of edification?

“...The Corinthians may pursue their own self-interested definitions of what is spiritual, and run the risk of being ignored by God; or they may recognize afresh that their confession of Jesus as Lord is not only the significant criterion of the Spirit’s presence (12:1-3) but something that can be tested by enthusiastic obedience to the Lord’s commands, mediated through the apostle.”