

# THE BODY OF CHRIST

## CORPORATE WORSHIP

**Today's Passage:** 1 Corinthians 14:24-26

**For the week of August 24th**

### MAIN POINT

The practice of corporate worship should reflect its primary purpose—the building up of the church.

### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

*Use these questions to start discussion and learn more about others in your Life Group.*

**What is your favorite part of a corporate worship service? Why?**

**Aside from the number of people involved, is there a difference between personal and corporate worship? What value is there in corporate worship that you can't get in private, personal worship?**

**What would you say are the top three purposes or priorities of corporate worship?**

The church at Corinth was experiencing problems in their corporate worship. Some were selfishly exalting their own preferences and the use of certain gifts. This was causing disruption and disorder in their worship. Paul wrote to remind them that their gifts were not primarily for them, but for others. When the church gathers for worship, the purpose should always be to exalt God and strengthen all who are present.

**SCAN HERE FOR ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTARY ON TODAY'S LESSON**



## GROW TOGETHER

**Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (ESV).**

**14:24** *“But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, **25** the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.”*

Among the Corinthians' problems was their desire to selfishly use unexplained tongues in their worship gatherings (See verses 1-23). Paul offered them two scenarios to get them to see the effect their self-centered worship had on outsiders—a worship gathering where everyone speaks in tongues and a worship service where everyone prophesies. In the first scenario, a visitor would be confused and think the Christians were out of their minds (v. 23). In the second scenario, a visitor would understand, fall under conviction, and join in worshipping God.

**Based on the picture given in verses 24-25, what is an important priority of corporate worship?**

**What elements of corporate worship in the church today might lead an unbeliever to come under conviction and worship God?**

**What elements of corporate worship in the church today might confuse unbelievers and serve to distract them from coming to a place of faith and repentance?**

Part of building up the church body is inviting and leading those who are not yet part of the church to places of faith and repentance. As such, our practice of corporate worship must keep visitors in mind. Our corporate worship practices must not distract outsiders from the gospel message, but should illuminate and reflect it.

**Read 1 Corinthians 14:26 (ESV).**

**14:26** *“What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up”*

**What elements of corporate worship did Paul identify here?**

**What certainty did Paul infer about individual members of the church?**

**Do you think most believers consider themselves as passive recipients or active participants in corporate worship? Explain.**

**How can we encourage active participation in corporate worship and at the same time maintain the order Paul emphasized throughout this chapter (v. 40)?**

Paul opened this section with the words, “What then shall we say?” Or in other words: “Here are some practical takeaways.” Spiritual gifts should be used in corporate worship to exalt God and help others grow. Worship that is not ordered—where everyone does what seems good to them—does not honor God and does not help anyone. Our worship reflects the One we worship and God is not a God of disorder or confusion, but of peace.

## MAKE AN IMPACT

*Discover how you can apply today's lesson to your life so you can impact the world.*

**Why is corporate worship an essential part of the Christian life?**

**What is the best way to avoid the temptation of underestimating the value of corporate worship and/or taking it for granted?**

**How are we doing at reflecting the primary purpose of corporate worship—the building up of the church? How can we grow in this area?**