



Week of April 21
1 Corinthians 14:1-25¹

Overview

Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses needs and problems specific to that local church. But for a 2000-year-old letter, many of the topics will ring true to us today as well. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism were obvious in 1st Century Corinth and are also rampant in our 21st century world. Paul cares deeply about both right living and right thinking for Christians, and so should we. In the last half of the letter, Paul sets some boundaries for how we behave in the body of Christ, emphasizing actions which build up the church and further the gospel. Keeping these themes in mind will help you understand the "why" behind Paul's guidance and admonitions to the Corinthian Christians.

Group Objectives

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We are Empowered by the Holy Spirit.*** The Holy Spirit within us enables us to live a life filled with joy, purpose, and power. We live in a supernatural reality that includes yet transcends the physical universe.

Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- Tell us about the most chaotic or disordered worship service you've ever attended. What did you notice about it?

Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week?
- How were you able to join God on mission?

¹ This discussion guide was written by Dawn Gentry and edited by Rachel Vaughn. For additional content, see the [sermon online](#) and the reading plan [found here](#).

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

While chapter 12 set up Paul's theology of "the body of Christ," and chapter 13 spells out Paul's teaching on "love in action," here in chapter 14, Paul returns to addressing more specific challenges in the local church at Corinth. Paul returns to the same theme he discussed in chapter 11 – propriety and appropriateness in the worship service. But unlike chapter 11, which focused on attire while prophesying and inclusion of all during the Lord's supper, in chapter 14, Paul addresses the importance of order in the worship service and of aspiring to spiritual gifts that "build up the church." For Paul, this emphasis on building up the church is paramount to their outside witness "so that all may be saved."

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- Why does Paul seem to prefer prophecy over tongue speaking?
- Note how many times Paul uses the words "build up," "edify," or "encourage." Why do you think this is so important in the church?
- What has been most edifying or encouraging for you in your walk with Jesus?
- How can we be more intentional about using our spiritual gifts to "build up" one another?
- How might having an orderly worship service affect our witness with outsiders?
 - Similarly, how might having boundaries around what happens in a worship service help us focus on the "common good" of everyone present? (see 1 Cor 12:4-7)
- What do you find most convicting in this passage? Most encouraging?
- What actions might God be calling you to take in response to this passage?

Reach One More Practice

- This week encourage one another with stories of how your "one more" conversations are bearing fruit. What progress has been made in these relationships since Easter?
- What are you learning about yourself in this season?
 - What are you learning about God?

Prayer Prompts

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
 - *Holy Spirit, thank you for pouring out gifts on all believers. Help us to aspire to gifts that build up the church, and always seek to use those gifts for the benefit of the common good. Amen.*

For further study

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org.
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>
- Right Now Media Series – "Bible Backroads" – great background on Corinth, suitable for families: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/806863>
- Ben Witherington, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*
- NT Wright, *1 Corinthians* (N. T. Wright *For Everyone* commentary series)
- Anthony Thiselton, *1 Corinthians: A Shorter Exegetical and Pastoral Commentary*

Some copies of these books may be available at the CCC resource booth to purchase on-site.