



Building Up the Church

By Taylor Braswell on April 19, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 14

We all know people who love making everything about themselves. These people will interrupt a story about something going on in someone's life and say, "well I had this happen to me," and will make the situation about them. Some people love attention and will do anything to get it!

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul is dealing with people in the church who were speaking in tongues to point people to themselves. In Acts 2, people heard their own language when others spoke in tongues! In 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4-11 it is clear no one can understand what these people are saying.

In verse 4 Paul says, "The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church." Paul uses the word "prophesy" in verses 1, 3, 5, 22, and 24. Paul is using the word prophesy in a general sense to mean speaking the Word of God. In the Old Testament, prophets pointed people back to God and reminded them of who He is and what he had done for them! When Paul was commanding the church to prophesy, he was telling them to explain God's Word to others!

Paul talks about being "built up" in verses 3, 4, 5, 12, and 17. Some translations use the word "edify" which means "building a house." Edifying implies encouraging, teaching, and promoting Christ-like character. Are your words and actions edifying? If a Christian looked at your daily life, would they be encouraged to be more like Christ? Are unbelievers hearing the gospel when they talk to you? The world already makes everything about themselves, let's not confuse them by doing the same thing in the church. Christians and unbelievers should hear the gospel in our midst and should be encouraged to be more like Christ. "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace."

PRAYER: God, show me areas in my life where I am putting myself first. Forgive me for pointing people to myself instead of you. Use me as your instrument to edify others.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 15

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