



#4 The God of Peace and Order

I Corinthians 14:29-40 (ESV)

Observation – *What does it say?*

Interpretation – *What does it mean?*

Application – *How does it apply to my life?*

1. ORDER IN PROPHETIC MINISTRY 14:29-33a

1 Corinthians 14:29 *Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. ³⁰If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. ³¹For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, ³²and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. ³³For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.*

- A. Prophecies should be spoken by two or three at most
- B. Prophecies should be ‘weighed’ by others
- C. Prophecies should be spoken one at a time
- D. Prophecies should benefit and encourage all present
- E. Prophets are responsible to abide by these guidelines
- F. God-honoring prophetic practice is not confusing, but results in peace

- **What exactly are these ‘prophecies?’** A message that a Christian believes God has revealed to him/her, meant to be shared with other believers for their encouragement, strengthening, or correction – “subjective prophecy” or “congregational prophecy”

1 Thessalonians 5:20 *Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good.*

- **What are the criteria for weighing/testing?**

Alignment with Scripture!

Further Suggestions...

- A. Get your heart in alignment with God’s will, regardless of what it might be. “I want what YOU want.” (*John 7:17*)
- B. Pray the prophetic word back to the Lord and seek His peace. “Show me if this is really from You. Grant me Your peace if it is.” (*Colossians 3:15*)

- C. Check it with spiritual overseers who know you and know God. (*Hebrews 13:7,17*)
- D. If you are still unsure, ask God for additional confirmations (*Luke 11:11-12*). A good Father wants you to know His will.

- **Who are the ‘others’ who should weigh what is said?**

- A. Prophecies should be tested by a specific group of people.
- B. Prophecies should be weighed by everyone present.

2. ORDER IN THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN 14:33b-35

1 Corinthians 14:33 *As in all the churches of the saints, ³⁴the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. ³⁵If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.*

Exegesis questions...

- A. Author’s intent – *What did the original writer intend to convey to his readers?*
- B. Historical context – *How would the original readers have understood it in their setting?*
- C. Grammatical interpretation – *What does the grammar tell us?*
- D. Lexical meaning – *What is the meaning of the words in the original language?*
- E. Context – *How does it fit with the scripture that surrounds it—both the near and remote contexts?*

I Corinthians 14:33-35: Three interpretive questions that must be answered...

- A. *Universal or local?* Is Paul giving a universal principle that should be applied to every church in every region in every era? Or is he simply addressing a local situation that was not meant to be broadly applied to other settings?
- B. *All women or certain women?* Was Paul prohibiting all the women in the church from speaking, or only a particular group or certain kind of women?
- C. *All speaking or a certain kind of speaking?* Was Paul prohibiting women from all speaking of any kind, or only from a certain kind of speaking?

POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS OF I CORINTHIANS 14:33-35

- 1) No woman *in any church anywhere* should ever open her mouth and utter any sounds, period.
- 2) No woman *in the church in Corinth* should ever open her mouth and utter any sounds.
- 3) *Certain kinds of women in any church anywhere* should never open their mouths and utter anything
 - a. loud, disruptive, disorderly women
 - b. uneducated women with lots of questions
 - c. wives/married women
- 4) *Certain kinds of women in the church in Corinth* should never open their mouths and utter anything (a,b,c)
- 5) No woman *in any church anywhere* should speak in *certain ways*
 - a. no asking questions aloud in church
 - b. no speaking in tongues in church
 - c. no speaking prophetically in church
 - d. no teaching or preaching authoritatively in church
 - e. not permitted to 'weigh' prophecies in church
- 6) *Certain kinds of women in any church anywhere* should never speak in certain ways (a-e)
- 7) *Certain kinds of women in the church in Corinth* should never speak in certain ways (a-e)
- 8) Paul was quoting and refuting an opposing opinion—prevalent in that culture and church—that restricted women's public participation. He was not restricting women in any way but was actually championing women's right to speak freely in church without any restrictions (except those applied to all) by countering the opposing viewpoint.
- 9) Paul was a male chauvenist who desired to repress and subjugate women, and sophisticated, modern-day people should dismiss him as a wacked-out wingnut steeped in an archaic male-dominated paradigm.

3. ORDER ARISING FROM AUTHORITY 14:36-38

1 Corinthians 14:36 *Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? ³⁷If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. ³⁸If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.*

4. ORDER IN ALL THINGS 14:39-40

1 Corinthians 14:39 *So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰But all things should be done decently and in order.*

BIBLE READING

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Psa. 60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mon.: Ezra 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tues.: Ezra 2 & 3 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Wed.: Ezra 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs.: Ezra 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fri.: Ezra 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sat.: Ezra 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Ezra 8 |

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New Life Church, Gahanna/March 5 & 6, 2011