

## 1 Corinthians 14 • Order Within the Body

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1. (v.1-5) The greater purpose of prophesy is for the **edification**, **exhortation** and **consolation** of the Church, which is the greater purpose **WE** are to seek.
2. (v.6-12) A message, teaching or prophecy which edifies is never **open** to interpretation or **ambiguous**—it is clearly **understood** by both the speaker and the listener.
3. (v.13-19) If we are carrying out our spiritual gifts biblically where the **Church** is concerned, the end result will be **love** which **builds** the Body of Christ.
4. (v.20-25) If we are carrying out our spiritual gifts biblically where the **unsaved** are concerned, the end result will be they become **saved**.
5. (v.26-33) Just as a message or teaching must be **understood** and free of **confusion** as to its purpose and meaning, so should be the **conduct** of our gathering together in Christ.
6. (v.34-36) This order and conduct of spiritual gifts extends to even our most personal **relationships**.
7. (v.37-38) **Every** gift and office of the Body of Christ must be in control, orderly, and working toward the common goal of **edification**, not just the historically “**problematic**” ones.
8. (v.39-40) The cure for “**bad**” gifts is not “**no**” gifts, but “**right**” gifts “*done properly and in an orderly manner*”.

### **Overall Application:**

The way a church service or gathering is conducted can take place in a wide variety of ways within many different cultural paradigms, but here is the basic parameters provided in Paul’s teachings which apply to every age, generation or culture:

- *It is the teaching of the **Word** which takes precedence over everything else and the standards by which all things are measured.*
- *The fruit of the Spirit is listed in Galatians 5:21-22, but its overall goal is to build up—“edify”, the **whole Church**.*
- *There must always be **self-control**, and everything “must be done properly and in an orderly manner”.*
- *There must not be anything which can hurt our **testimony** before non-believers.*
- *There is a proper chain of **authority** which exists for all in the Body of Christ, even **men** and **women**.*
- *As the old saying goes, “There must be **understanding** before there is **blessing**”.*

While a **planned** service does not automatically guarantee a **spiritual** service, the Holy Spirit can lead our planning beforehand just as well as guiding the service itself. In either case, the overall goal is still “*edification and exhortation and consolation*”.