

## *I Corinthians 14:26-40*

### *“When you assemble”*

For more information on this subject go to [apptoteach.org](http://apptoteach.org) theology files #801-811

#### *What is the proper role of tongues?*

- ✓ **Tongues will edify the speaker.** This is a gift worth pursuing.
- ✓ **Tongues can edify the church when interpreted.** Interpreted tongues function as prophecy.
- ✓ **Tongues without interpretation in the church are a sign to the church that it does not have an ear to hear.** It is a curse.
- ✓ **Tongues can be faked, fleshly, and manipulative.** Tongues have been a problem in every century.

#### *Advice to those who speak in tongues.*

- ✓ **Use the gift properly.** Private edification does not always equal Public edification.
- ✓ **Don't demand or push the gift on others.** This gift is not for everyone and it cannot be willed into existence.
- ✓ **Respect diversity in God's design for the Body.** Use your gift and receive ministry from others with mutual respect.
- ✓ **Major on the majors.** Tongues are not the most important part of Christian life and ministry.

#### *The point of this text*

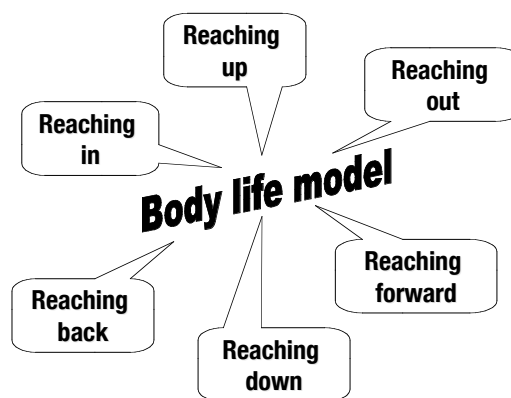
**Tongues are to be desired and welcomed like all other gifts but also are to be used with humility and for edification of others.**

#### *Advice to those who do not speak in tongues.*

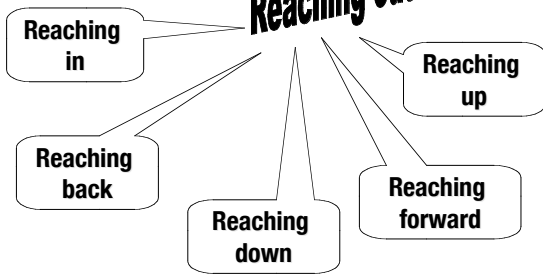
- ✓ **Don't despise the gift or those who have it.** It is worth pursuing.
- ✓ **Accept and respect the proper use of revelatory gifts.** Grant the same honor that you expect to receive with your gifts.
- ✓ **Don't feel that God does not love you because you do not have this gift.** Tongues are not a sign of authenticity.
- ✓ **Just because someone may misuse the gift does not mean it is to be discarded.** Tongues have a role.

### *“When you assemble”*

- ✓ **Missional or Body life?**
- ✓ **Old Covenant or New Covenant?**
  - **Spectators or Participants?**
  - **Seekers or Believers?**
  - **Clergy or Charismatic?**
  - **Formal or Informal?**



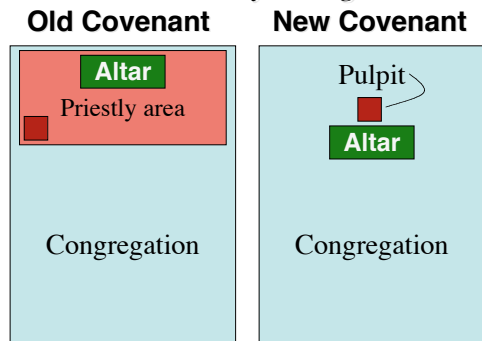
## Missional model Reaching out



## Worship models- Old Covenant or New Covenant

Old Covenant	New Covenant
“high church”	“low church”
O.T. Temple	N.T. Assembly
Priestly class	Priesthood of all believers
Clergy	Charismatic

## Sanctuary design



### I Corinthians 14

“<sup>26</sup> What is {the outcome} then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

- ✓ Church meetings were “Body life” experiences.
- ✓ Each person was expected to participate.
- ✓ The objective was to build up believers.

### I Corinthians 14

“<sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, {it should be} by two or at the most three, and {each} in turn, and let one interpret; <sup>28</sup> but if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.”

- ✓ Church meetings need both structure and freedom.

### I Corinthians 14

“<sup>29</sup> And let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. <sup>30</sup> But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, let the first keep silent. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; <sup>32</sup> and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;”

- ✓ Church meetings need critically discerning minds.

I Corinthians 14

“<sup>33</sup> for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

✓ **Church meetings are to present a clear message in a peaceful environment.**

Acts 2

“<sup>17</sup> And it shall be in the last days, God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and **your daughters shall prophesy,**”

I Corinthians 11

“<sup>4</sup> Every man who has {something} on his head while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head. <sup>5</sup> But **every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying,** disgraces her head;”

**How do we harmonize these texts with I Cor.14?**

### ***The point of this text***

**Church meetings are “Body Life” meetings that involve structure and freedom with the objective of edifying believers.**

I Corinthians 14

“<sup>33</sup> . . . **As in all the churches** <sup>34</sup> let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. <sup>35</sup> And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. <sup>36</sup> Was it from you that the word of God {first} went forth? Or has it come to you only?”

✓ **Church meetings are to respect some gender distinctions and roles.**

I Corinthians 14

“<sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment. <sup>38</sup> But if anyone does not recognize {this}, he is not recognized. <sup>39</sup> Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. <sup>40</sup> But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.”

✓ **Breaking Paul’s rules of ministry are deal-breakers for participation.**

### ***What do we know about meetings in the early church?***

- ✓ **There are no specific instructions** - The meeting order and content may have varied and evolved.
- ✓ **Early models** - Temple, Synagogue, house church
- ✓ **Basic elements** - Common prayer and singing, Reading of Scripture and teaching, Open ministry, Lords supper, A shared meal.
- ✓ **Structure with freedom** - Order and open participation were important.
- ✓ **Body life context** - The meeting was for believers and about edification in the faith.