

When You Come Together

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 14:26-40.

B. Two or three believers gathered together constitute the church in action.

II. The church encouraged one another with their gifts when they gathered.

A. They had two types of meetings.

1. Small intimate gatherings where gifts would be used to encourage one another.

2. Large gatherings for instruction and worship.

B. All things were to be done for edification. Believers ought to be uplifted during a meeting.

C. Problem areas.

1. Exercising the gift of tongues.

2. Prophesying.

3. The freedom of women to worship.

D. There are rules to meeting with each other.

1. Rules enable everyone to enjoy something.

2. Tongues: only one or two were to practice during a meeting because it was such an emotional thing, one must have the ability to interpret for edification, and without this, one must speak to himself.

3. Prophecy: it was to be limited in number to prevent lengthy meetings, it was to be examined by others, and no one person was to dominate the meeting.

4. The ministry of women.

a. Paul is not a woman-hating bachelor--he has a high view of women.

b. The problem was not a woman ministering in a church--it was one of disorder and confusion.

c. Women were not permitted to chatter--this was happening at the meetings because they were exercising a freedom they rightly possessed.

III. The truly spiritual people always recognize the authority of the Scriptures.

A. The Spirit of God never moves contrary to the Word of God.

B. Those not recognizing these principles ought not to be paid much attention.

Application questions:

1. Why are small groups so important to the life of the church?

2. What is the purpose of rules within gatherings? Should there not be freedom in Christ? Explain.

3. What is your opinion on the role of women in the ministry? Defend your answer with Scripture.
