

*The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth*

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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### **1 Corinthians 14:26-40 – Practicing the Miraculous (Part 3)**

*“So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But all things should be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:26-40)*

#### **1. The Need for Order (vv. 26-33b)**

#### **2. The Need for Honor (vv. 33c-35)**

**For Further Thought and Discussion:**

**Getting Started:**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

### Going Deeper

2. How does Paul describe the gatherings of the church in Corinth (v. 26)? What can we infer about the size of this congregation? Why is this significant as we consider when and where to practice the miraculous gifts?
3. Paul says God is not, "a God of confusion but of peace" (v. 32). How should this principle shape the Corinthians' practice of prophecy (vv. 29-31)? Why do prophetic words need to be weighed (v. 29)? What does this reveal about the nature of this gift? How should prophecy be weighed (see Romans 12:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20)?
4. Read vv. 33c-35. Why is it critical for us to read this passage in the broader context of chapters 11-14? How does the broader context help us understand, (1) the issues between husbands and wives that were surfacing during corporate worship (see 11:2-16), (2) the kind of "*silence*" Paul requires from wives (compare v. 34 with vv. 28, 31), (3) the kind of "*shame*" wives were bringing upon their husbands (compare v. 35 with 11:6), and (4) the "*law*" to which Paul appeals (compare v. 34 with 11:8-9)? Based on these contextual clues, what specific behavior is Paul prohibiting?
5. Why is Paul so insistent that the Corinthians follow his instructions regarding the practice of the gifts (vv. 36-38)? Why is abusing the gifts so dangerous?

### Application:

6. Jeff noted that some churches emphasize form, while others emphasize freedom. What are the pitfalls of overemphasizing one or the other?
7. Based on Paul's instructions, Jeff laid down a number of principles for practicing the miraculous gifts during gatherings? How do you feel about practicing these gifts? What concerns or hesitations do you have?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?