

Series: 1st Corinthians.

Sunday, June 28. Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC's app (under Devotionals) or at gardiner.church/devotions

1. THE MESS: WHEN TONGUES D..... RATHER THAN BUILD

(See Acts 10:44-48; 19:1-7; 16:13-15,29-34; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 13:8; 14:20,39)

- The Church in Corinth had turned tongues into a status symbol. Those who had the gift felt spiritually superior; those who didn't felt spiritually inferior. What God intended as a gift for building up was tearing the body apart. Paul steps in not to shut the conversation down, but to set it straight.
- **U**..... **View.** All Christians should speak in tongues and it is either proof of salvation or of a secondary "baptism of the Spirit."
- **C**..... **View.** The gift of tongues ceased with the apostolic age and is no longer active today.
- **D**..... **View.** Tongues is a genuine, valid, and valuable spiritual gift for today, given to some but not all.

NOTES:

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2. THE GIFT: REAL, VALUABLE AND M.....

(1 Corinthians 14:2,4,14-15; 18-19,23-25; also 7:7; 12:8-11,28-30; Acts 2:5-11)

- Paul doesn't dismiss tongues but celebrates speaking them himself. But just as he celebrated celibacy as his gift without insisting everyone be celibate, he celebrates tongues without making it universal. Not all speak in tongues and that is by God's design.
- **M**..... **Tongue.** A miraculous ability to proclaim to others about God in an unlearned foreign language.
- **D**..... **Tongue.** A private, personal form of prayer and praise between the believer and God.
- **C**..... **Tongue.** Used in a gathered church setting.

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**3. THE MANDATE: O AND BUILDING
UP THE CHURCH IN LOVE** (1 Corinthians 14:13, 26-28, 33, 40)

God is not a God of disorder but of peace and this should be reflected in the way His church gathers. Paul also reminds us that all must be done, for the building up of the church.

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Questions To Consider:

Point 1. Have you ever felt spiritually superior or inferior because of a spiritual gift — either one you have or one you don't? How does Paul's teaching here challenge that?

Point 2. Since Scripture makes clear that not all Christians speak in tongues, how does understanding the different kinds of tongues help you appreciate this gift — and approach it with neither fear nor overemphasis?

Point 3. In your participation in church life — whether in a service, a small group, or a conversation — are you more focused on what you bring to the room, or on what others need from it?

Application For This Week: Take stock of the gifts God has given you — not to compare them with others, but to ask honestly: Am I using what I have to build people up? Every gift, given by the same Spirit for the same purpose, matters to the body of Christ. This week, look for one specific way to use your gift to serve someone else in the church.

Prayer: *Father, thank You that You are a God of order, peace, and generosity — a God who gives good gifts to Your children. Forgive me for the times I have either prized the wrong things or felt diminished by what I lack. Help me to receive what You have given me with gratitude, and to use it not for my own reputation but for the building up of Your church. May everything I bring to Your people reflect Your love and Your peace — and may it all be for Your glory alone. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Verses To Meditate On This Week:

Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. ... For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people. – 1 Corinthians 14:26b,33

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