

I Corinthians 14:26-40

“When you assemble”

For more information on this subject go to 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

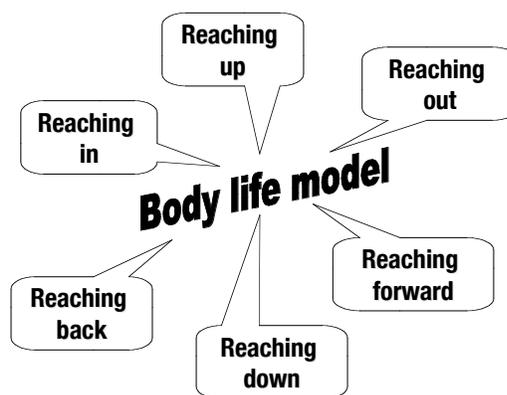
Tongues are to be desired and welcomed like all other gifts but also are to be used with humility and for edification of others.

Advice to those who do not speak in tongues.

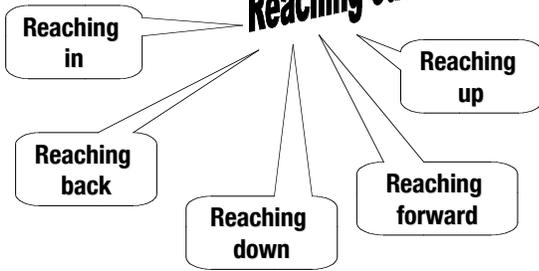
- ✓ **Don't despise the gift or those who have it.** It is worth pursuing.
- ✓ **Accept and respect the proper use of revelatory gifts.** Grant the same honor that you expect to receive with your gifts.
- ✓ **Don't feel that God does not love you because you do not have this gift.** Tongues are not a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



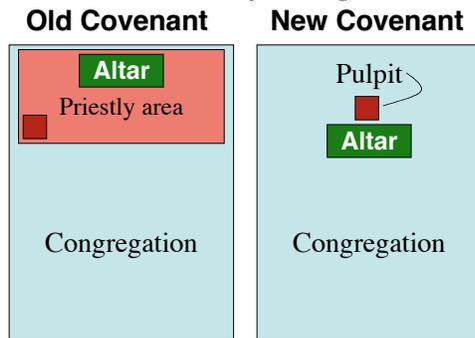
Missional model Reaching out



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

“²⁶ 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

“²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, {it should be} by two or at the most three, and {each} in turn, and let one interpret; ²⁸ 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

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

- ✓ Church meetings need critically discerning minds.

I Corinthians 14

“³³ 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

“¹⁷ 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

“⁴ Every man who has {something} on his head while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head. ⁵ 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

“³³ . . . **As in all the churches** ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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

“³⁷ 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. ³⁸ But if anyone does not recognize {this}, he is not recognized. ³⁹ Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. ⁴⁰ 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.