

The Two Thousand Year Morph Part 2- Proper and Orderly

I Corinthians 14:26-40 ²⁶What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a psalm or a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. All of these must be done to build up the church. ²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, two, or at most three, should speak in turn, and someone must interpret. ²⁸But if there is no interpreter, he should remain silent in the church and speak only to himself and God. ²⁹Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. ³⁰And if a revelation comes to someone who is seated, the first speaker should stop. ³¹For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. ³²The spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. ³³For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace—as in all the churches of the saints. ³⁴Women are to be silent in the churches. They are not permitted to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. ³⁵If they wish to inquire about something, they are to ask their own husbands at home; for it is dishonorable for a woman to speak in the church. ³⁶Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only ones it has reached? ³⁷If anyone considers himself a prophet or spiritual person, let him acknowledge that what I am writing you is the Lord's command. ³⁸But if anyone ignores this, he himself will be ignored. ³⁹So, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰But everything must be done in a proper and orderly manner. (BSB)

Intro: This is a sequel to a sermon that I preached a while ago on I Corinthians 11. In this sermon I talked about the effect that this verse has had on relationships between Christian men and women: **Galatians 3:26-29** You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** These words were written nearly two thousand years ago. Scripture has **changed** our culture here in the west.
- B.** The culture back then called for a more **informal** gathering. V. 26-31 Can a local church decide to implement this type of **informal** weekly gathering? Yes!
- C.** Those who bring the message to the believers in their weekly meeting must show some **self-control**. V. 32
- D.** In our culture this type of gathering would be considered by many to be **chaotic** and **disorderly**. V. 33
- E.** The type of control on women that was considered culturally appropriate back then would be **abusive** today! V. 34-38
- F.** Speaking God's word has got to be **essential** in any formal gathering of a local church. V. 39
- G.** All such gatherings must be **proper** and **orderly** for the culture that they are in. V. 40

II. How do we apply these truths to our life and culture?

- A.** Our culture is changing. The past **applications** of “Proper and in Order” may also change.
- B.** God did create us male and female. However, we are all **sons** of God because of Christ.
- C.** We must be willing to make **changes** to how we apply “Proper and in Order” without fights. The leadership must prove their trustworthiness before trying to change the local church culture. This includes casting a vision of why change is needed.
- D.** Since there are so many **false** doctrines going around, it is important that local church leadership, in our culture, **protect** the body by having a system in place for deciding who “prophesies” in their weekly meetings.