

LET ALL THINGS BE DONE FOR EDIFICATION

Text: 1 Corinthians 14:26

INTRO: There were some things done in the assemblies of Corinthian brethren to whom Paul wrote that cannot be duplicated in our assemblies today. They had supernatural gifts of the Spirit; we do not. But much of what Paul said to them involved basic principles that are as applicable today as they were then. This is especially true of the principle that all things done in the public worship assembly should be done for the purpose of edification. The Gr. word for edification simply means building.

A. Root word used literally in John 2:20; Luke 4:29.

B. Usually used in N.T. of spiritual growth.

1. Rom 14:19, things which make for peace...

2. Rom 15:2, each please neighbor for his good 2 ed.

3. Eph 4:29, no corrupt communication...

C. The basic thought in 1 Cor 14 is that things done in the assembly should be done for edification, vs 1-5, 12, 19, 26, 37-40.

I. ALL PREACHING & TEACHING SHOULD BE DONE FOR EDIFICATION. When it is not, it needs to be improved.

A. To be edifying, it must first be Scriptural.

Gal 1:6-12; 2 John 9-10; 1 Pet 2:2 (pure milk)

B. Edification also requires that teaching be understandable, 1 Cor 14:9. Loud enough to be heard.

C. Before preaching or teaching can be as edifying as it should be, the principles of truth need to be applied to our problems. Examples. Illustrations.

II. PRAYER LED IN THE PUBLIC ASSEMBLY SHOULD ALSO BE DONE FOR EDIFICATION, 1 Cor 14:14-17.

A. Again, first must be Scriptural.

1. 1 Tim 2:5, Christ, not Mary mediator

2. 1 JN 5:14, ask for what is Scripturally right

3. Meaningful, heartfelt expressions. Can train a parrot to say a prayer...

B. Prayer in the public assembly should be in words that can be heard & understood by those present, vs. 16.

III. THE SONG SERVICE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO EDIFY, 1 Cor. 14:15.

A. The songs should be Scriptural. Of course, we must allow for poetic license.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful (Psalm 98:8).

B. The song leader should give forethought to the songs to be sung & have a basic understanding of the meaning of the words. Pause occasionally & explain difficult wording.

C. Edification can be increased by picking songs that will enhance the sermon, or by a song service built around a theme of its own.

D. The song service will be more edifying if all will participate as they should.

1. Do not like the song? Is it Scriptural?
2. Ashamed to be seen singing? MK 8:38
3. Life not in harmony? Repent. 1 Pet 3:9
4. Think song leader is not qualified?
5. We are commanded to sing, Col 3:16.

IV. FINALLY THERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT MIGHT MAKE OUR OBSERVANCE OF THE L.S. MORE EDIFYING

A. Appropriate comments or Scripture reading.

B. Prayer appropriate to situation.

C. Both prayer & comments, if any, should be made in such a

way as to be heard & understood.

D. Personal faithfulness of those who lead.

CONCLUSION: This lesson is not meant to upbraid or scold. For the most part, the services in this congregation are more edifying than many places I have been, but I suppose there will always be room for improvement. Let us each give forethought to do all things for edification. And one part that we can each play in this is to prepare our hearts and minds to be edified.

La Porte, TX, February 26, 1978

Bible camp, Sabinal, TX, June 18, 1980

Exton, PA, March 11, 1986

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 20, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 16, 2000

Northside, Georgetown, TX, November 15, 2000 (meeting)

Waterville, ME, December 23, 2001 (meeting)

Loop 304, Crockett, TX, May 5, 2002 (meeting)

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, May 12, 2002 (meeting)

Milton, VT, June 23, 2002 (meeting)

Dexter, ME, August 4, 2002 (meeting)