

Sermon Title: God is Not a God of Chaos 1 Corinthians 14

Have you ever walked into chaos?

- Into a home where it's clear that there are no distinct rules or roles?
- Into an office meeting where several people think they are in charge?
- On to a construction site with no general contractor?

What about into church where things were not "done decently & in good order"?

- What would church be like if everyone sang whatever they wanted?
- What would church be like if anyone/everyone came up here to preach?
- What would church be like without pastors, elders, deacons, teachers?

The Apostle Paul is addressing chaos in the churches of Corinth! There were no paid staff, no professional clergy, no established liturgy! The church was learning how to be "the church" without a clear "head" other than Christ!

Paul was helping them establish order, healthy boundaries, & appropriate roles in the church. He does this here in CH. 14 by addressing the diysfunction!

Why is dysfunction spelled diysfunction? Because the dysfunction in these churches stemmed from a DIY (Do it yourself) functioning of its members!

People wanted to do things their own way, have their own experience, focus on themselves... It wasn't about "How do we be the Church together... How do we build up one another... How do we truly bring glory to God..." It was about me!

"There is nothing like the Church when it is functioning right!" But... Paul addresses several DIYsfunctions that caused the church to be in chaos!

DIYsfunction # 1 – They had a wrong understanding of "Spiritual gifts"!

Spiritual gifts are for the purpose of "building up the church", not the building up of oneself! 6 times in this chapter Paul emphasizes this purpose!
- **Vs. 3, 4, 5, 12, 17, 26.**

When the "gifts" themselves become the focus, rather than their intended function, chaos is the result! Do we have a right understanding today?

DIYsfunction # 2 – They wrongly elevated the gift of speaking in "tongues"!

"Tongues" was given at Pentecost for the transmission of the gospel to all nations! It was a gift intended to make clear the message of Christ! It was a gift for "the building up of the church", not the elevation of an individual!

The Corinthians were putting "tongues" above "prophecy" & Paul said "No!"

For "tongues" to be valid, it must be accompanied by an interpreter! Why? What is the purpose of "Spiritual gifts" again...? How can a person/church be built up/encouraged when they can't understand what is being said?

Vs. 19 – "Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak 5 words with my mind in order to instruct others, than 10,000 words in a tongue."

Paul wanted them to experience this gift, as he has/does, but he has great reservation for the use of it in worship because of the potential distortion!

Paul goes on to say that "tongues" is a gift for the sake of the "unbeliever"... but then says that when "unbelievers" hear/see this in the church they will conclude that these people are "out of their minds". Paul is torn, & so are we!

DIYsfunction # 3 – They had no boundaries in place to keep "decency and order" in worship!

Can you imagine everyone in the church speaking in tongues at the same time & trying to sort through who is interpreting & what's the interpretation? Or even prophesying? Everyone saying, "I have a word from the Lord!"

Vs. 26-33 - "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace."

We as a church do not put a high emphasis on these special "sign gifts"... Instead we prioritize the gospel & the clear proclamation of the Word!

- We have trained clergy... & we emphasize preaching (prophesying)!

DIYsfunction # 4- They didn't take seriously the importance of roles!

Whether we are talking about the home, the office, or the church, we all have roles to play in order for chaos to be avoided!

- If mom says one thing and dad says another, what's the outcome?
- If all the employees think they are the boss, what happens?
- If women are speaking out in the church, & interpreting prophecy/tongues, in a time when women were not given positions of authority, what do you think happened? Chaos! So Paul says...

Was this a command for all time, or was it a command for the sake of the church at that time? There are good arguments on both sides... But I keep going back to the purpose of these gifts... Examples of a healthy tension...

DIYsfunction # 5 – Not taking the Word of God seriously! **Vs. 37-38**

Scripture is our rule of faith & life... We must know/understand/apply it!

Sermon Title: God is Not a God of Chaos 1 Corinthians 14

Have you ever walked into _____

- Into a home where it's clear that there are no distinct rules or roles?
- Into an office meeting where several people think they are in charge?
- On to a construction site with no general contractor?

What about into _____ where things are not **"done decently & in good order"**?

- What would church be like if everyone sang whatever they wanted?
- What would church be like if anyone/everyone came up here to preach?
- What would church be like without pastors, elders, deacons, teachers?

The Apostle Paul is addressing chaos in the churches of Corinth! There were no paid staff, no professional clergy, no established liturgy! The church was learning how to be _____ without a clear "head" other than Christ!

Paul was helping them establish order, healthy boundaries, & appropriate roles in the church. He does this here in CH. 14 by addressing the _____

Why is dysfunction spelled diysfunction? Because the dysfunction in these churches stemmed from a _____ functioning of its members!

People wanted to do things their own way, have their own experience, focus on themselves... It wasn't about *"How do we be the Church together... How do we build up one another... How do we truly bring glory to God..."* It was about _____

"There is nothing like the Church when it is functioning right!" But...

Paul addresses several DIYsfunctions that caused the church to be in chaos!

DIYsfunction # 1 – They had a wrong understanding of _____

Spiritual gifts are for the purpose of "building up the church", not the building up of oneself! 6 times in this chapter Paul emphasizes this purpose!

- **Vs. 3, 4, 5, 12, 17, 26.**

When the "gifts" themselves become _____ rather than their intended function, chaos is the result! Do we have a right understanding today?

DIYsfunction # 2 – They wrongly elevated the gift of speaking in _____

"Tongues" was given at Pentecost for the transmission of the gospel to all nations! It was a gift intended to make clear the message of Christ! It was a gift for *"the building up of the church"*, not the elevation of _____

The Corinthians were putting "tongues" above "prophecy" & Paul said "No!"

For "tongues" to be valid, it must be accompanied by an interpreter! Why? What is the purpose of "Spiritual gifts" again...? How can a person/church be built up/encouraged when they _____ what is being said?

Vs. 19 – ***"Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak 5 words with my mind in order to instruct others, than 10,000 words in a tongue."***

Paul wanted them to experience this gift, as he has/does, but he has great reservation for the use of it in worship because of the potential _____

Paul goes on to say that "tongues" is a gift for the sake of the **"unbeliever"...** but then says that when "unbelievers" hear/see this in the church they will conclude that these people are **"out of their minds"**. Paul is torn, & so are we!

DIYsfunction # 3 – They had no _____ in place to keep **"decency and order"** in worship!

Can you imagine everyone in the church speaking in tongues at the same time & trying to sort through who is interpreting & what's the interpretation? Or even prophesying? Everyone saying, *"I have a word from the Lord!"*

Vs. 26-33 - ***"For God is not a God of _____ but of peace."***

We as a church do not put a high emphasis on these special "sign gifts"... Instead we prioritize the gospel & the clear proclamation of the Word!

- We have trained clergy... & we emphasize _____ (prophesying)!

DIYsfunction # 4- They didn't take seriously the importance of _____

Whether we are talking about the home, the office, or the church, we all have roles to play in order for chaos to be avoided!

- If mom says one thing and dad says another, what's the outcome?
- If all the employees think they are the boss, what happens?
- If women are speaking out in the church, & interpreting prophecy/tongues, in a time when women were not given positions of authority, what do you think happened? _____ So Paul says...

Was this a command for _____ or was it a command for the sake of the church _____ There are good arguments on both sides... But I keep going back to the purpose of these gifts... Examples of a healthy tension...

DIYsfunction # 5 – Not taking the _____ seriously! **Vs. 37-38**

Scripture is our rule of faith & life... We must know/understand/apply it!