

**“Walking in Unity”**  
**1 Corinthians 14:1-25**

1. Ephesians 4:11
2. Romans 12:3-8
3. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Corinthians 12:27-30

**1 Corinthians 12:31**

The more excellent way is the way of love. This is what Paul teaches us in  
**1 Corinthians 13**

\*\*\* Love surpasses all the spiritual gifts.

**1 Corinthians 13**

When there is no love, there is no ministering, because without love, one cannot minister to people.

1. Edification vv 1-5
2. Understanding vv 6-19
3. Instruction for the church vv 20-25

1. Edification vv 1-5:

1 Corinthians 14:1

(NLT) “Let love be your highest goal!”

**1 Corinthians 13:13 – “But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.”**

Love has to be a priority in our lives. Love has to be demonstrated in the way we treat others, in the way we behave and in the way we live.

\*\*\* We sometimes forget that our gift is not for our personal use and enjoyment. It is to be used for the edifying of the church and to be a blessing unto others.

**1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT) – “A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”**

\*\*\* Prophecy today is proclaiming the completed Word of God to all.

**1 Corinthians 14:2**

## Acts 2:4-11

Acts 10:46a – “For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.”

## 1 Corinthians 14:3

“for edification and exhortation and consolation.” ~ We see the purpose for prophesying further clarified. Prophecy, “speaking forth the Word of God” works to complete these three things: edify, exhort and consolation.

**Edification** ~ to edify the church, that is the building up of the church.

**Exhortation** ~ could be understood as a warning, or a notice to motivate you; I think of the word spur, spur one another on.

**Consolation** ~ It’s helping the depressed, to remove the sadness.

## 1 Corinthians 14:4

Have you come tonight with the idea of edifying the church?

Have you come tonight with the purpose of blessing someone?

<sup>5</sup> Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

## 2. Understanding vv 6-19:

“But” 1 Corinthians 14:6

**Revelation** ~ sharing the truth that is unknown.

**Knowledge** ~ sharing the wisdom of God, and knowing how to apply the truths of God in people’s lives.

**Prophecy** ~ proclaiming God’s Word to people.

**Teaching** ~ the systematic teaching of God’s Word.

## 1 Corinthians 14:7

vv 8

vv 9

vv 10-11

<sup>12</sup> So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.

vv 13

vv 14

<sup>15</sup> What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

We can see that there is time to do both. There is a proper place to do both.

vv 16

vv 17

vv 18

Paul obviously knows what he is talking about. He is just not simply talking to be talking. We see that he has personal experience with this gift.

vv 19

Paul would rather speak with understandable wisdom, for the edification of the church. He would rather be a blessing to all; **“I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.”**

### 3. Instruction for the church vv 20-25:

vv 20

**“Brethren,”** – brothers, sisters, believers, Christians.

**“do not be children in your thinking;”** ~ don’t be like a child in your understanding of these things.

**“yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.”** ~ you need to be like infants, innocent in evil things. But be mature in your understanding on such things as these. Simply said; “Grow up already!”

**vv 21**

**Isaiah 28:11-12 New Living Translation (NLT)**

**vv 22**

So tongues demonstrate the authority of God to the non-believer –  
**“but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.”**

It is through prophecy that God gets our attention, the believers' attention.

**vv 23**

**vv 24**

**<sup>25</sup> the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.**

What we see here is the results of prophesying. We edify the church, the body and we see growth. Even the non-believer will see that God is certainly among us.

**Application:**

1. We need to use our gifts for the edification of the church. Not our own selfish motives. As well as to bring glory to the Lord.
2. We need to use our gifts to be a blessing to others. A debtor rather than a creditor. How can I be a blessing to someone this evening?
3. We need to use our gifts in love. If we don't use them in love there is no ministering. Am I ministering to others?