

## Prayer Points

Give thanks for answers to prayer for long-awaited operations now becoming a reality in the near future for several friends.

Give thanks for the ministry from visiting preachers during David's sabbatical.

Pray for pastor David as he takes stock of all that the Lord has been imparting to him and that we might be open to new initiatives he may present to us.

Give thanks for the lead given by our elders and other leaders over these past three months.

Pray for those having to make important decisions regarding ongoing care for loved ones.

We praise God for hearing our prayers. We have been able to send people to fulfil some of our longstanding needs. Pray today for those who are settling into new locations and roles as they have followed God's call on their lives.

## Sermon Notes



# BIBLE STUDY

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024

## **Called, Gathered and Sent. Part 6. Good order.**

### **1 Corinthians 14:26-39**

Every now and then it is good to do a 're-set', a mental 'turn off, count to ten and restart'. This is a good thing to do because it can reconnect us to the fundamentals of our life and faith, hopefully to enable us to re-examine the basics and refresh what we thought we understood about what we think we know.

Even when not on a sabbatical, ministers are advised to go on a retreat now and again so as to unclutter their minds and make them better, with God's help, at what they do.

Likewise, it is good for everyone to have that 'Spring Clean' of the mind to enable us all to be better Christians, not only for our own benefit but so that we can serve others better as Christians.

This series is not exhaustive, but will help us refresh our mindset.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001

It could be that today's reading may cause a few hackles to rise. If that is so, let me try to soothe hurt feelings. In part, Paul says what he does because of the culture into which he is speaking. So we shouldn't take things too literally.

However, there are still some churches which will hold, more or less rigidly, to the principle of what Paul said. Some churches are still firmly grounded in the first century apparently. Life moves on, some people don't.

The other part for Paul saying what he does here is that the early church could be a fairly chaotic place. Therefore, what Paul is trying to do is ensure that worship is conducted without it degenerating into a free for all scrambles. Please remember that there was, at this time, no priesthood or hierarchy within the Christian Church, the nearest thing to a Bible College or Seminary was the fledgling core group of believers in Jerusalem.

It would also be reasonable to describe the city of Corinth as being a bit like a Roman version of Dodge City in a Western. The people were always waiting for 'the next new thing' which would make the authorities a bit anxious [strict or even brutal], so Paul's attempt to bring order into the church would also bring about some protection for the congregation.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-39**

Some churches have very flexible arrangements to their services whereas others are very rigid and unchanging. Over time we all change: some opting for the more relaxed and others craving the structure. I like a simple life. How about you?

1. Some people see Paul as a 'misogynist'. Looking at what was said, by Paul, in its historical context, what do you think?

2. Instead of our 'usual' service format, how would you feel about attending a service such as Paul describes in verses 26-30? What would you find acceptable or unacceptable and why?
3. Paul said, v 34, that 'women should be silent in church "according to the Law"' . What Law would that be? Why, do you think, was it thought women should be silent [in church]? (There are various possible reasons suggested by scholars, not all 'anti-women').
4. Re-read verses 27-28. What do you understand from what Paul said here? How were 'tongue' speakers chosen and who would interpret? How would any interpretation be assigned to which 'tongue'?
5. Verses 34-36 seem to show Paul in a rather bad light, arrogant or grumpy even. What could have put him in such a bad mood? We would never say anything so rude – or have we?
6. In verse 33 Paul reminds us that 'God is a God of peace' but then suggests that it is the same 'in all congregations of the Lord's people'. Is that always true? If so, why are there so many denominations and variations in churches and worship?
7. Why would a church, or Minister, 'forbid speaking in tongues'?
8. What are the most important or beneficial parts of a service to you? Why these?