



Discussion Guide

April 22, 2018

Contrast: 1st Century Worship At Its Best

I Corinthians 14

Introduction: Read I Corinthians 14

Here Paul is trying to bring some order out of the chaos of worship services that had become a bit raucous. The two spiritual gifts that were the source of confusion and division were tongues and prophecy.

Discussion Questions

1. How many languages besides English have people within your group studied or learned? Have you ever been in a situation where you spoke with a group of non-English speakers and someone had to translate your words for you? What was that experience like for you?
2. Depending on if and when you became a follower of Christ, if you remember coming into a Christian worship service as an unbeliever, were there elements of the service that were mysterious or confusing to you? Did anyone take the time to explain the meaning of these things to you?
3. Describe a time when you were in a worship service and something happened, something was said or done that was a tremendous encouragement to you, just when you needed that to happen. Does that happen often in worship or is it more of a rarity?
4. When you enter into a worship experience, do you perceive yourself more as a participant, or more as part of the audience? In other words, do you feel that you are present primarily to give something in worship, or to receive something from worship?



5. In vss. 24 & 25, Paul describes what should happen in the mind of an unbeliever as he or she observes believers exercising their gifts and worshipping God. What should be happening in the worship service at Parkside for an unbeliever to feel convicted by the truth of God and to leave saying, "God truly is among these people."

6. Do you feel comfortable inviting unbelieving friends to come be your guest in the worship services at Parkside? What would be their impression of things if you were the only one they observed all Sunday morning? Would they conclude from your actions that you are in the presence of the God whom you serve? Would anything about you need to change in order for that impression to be made?

Moving Forward:

As you come into the worship assembly this week, exercise some self-awareness as to your level of enthusiasm and participation in the songs, the teaching, communion and offering. Commit as a group that each of you will participate in worship at a better level than ever before. Perhaps you could also commit to inviting an unbelieving or unchurched friend to be with you.