

# THE CONFUSION AT CORINTH

## 1 Corinthians 14

Anachronism is a detail that is from another \_\_\_\_\_ ; to avoid it we must focus on the historical context:

- 1) Tongues was defined at \_\_\_\_\_ : the supernatural ability to speak in languages one never learned
- 2) When Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, the church was 5 yrs old, filled with new Christians saved from \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The church was \_\_\_\_\_ by allegiance to various teachers: Paul could not just tell them what to do
- 4) The church was dominated by huge problems; it was not the \_\_\_\_\_ for how we should use spiritual gifts
- 5) In all the letters written by the apostles to churches, this is the ONLY letter that mentions the gift of \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Many in the church still based their ideas about what made a person spiritual based on ecstatic experiences they had had in the mystery religions they practiced before they were \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Paul emphasized to them that belief in the Lord Jesus defines someone as \_\_\_\_\_ not tongues-speaking
- 8) 1 Cor.12:4-11 teaches that it is the \_\_\_\_\_ who sovereignly distributes gifts to believers
- 9) If every believer had the gift of tongues, the body of Christ would be one giant \_\_\_\_\_ , a monstrous idea
- 10) Paul outlines an order among spiritual gifts: apostles, prophets, teachers, but last is varieties of \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) 1 Cor.13: any spiritual gift that is not exercised in *agape* love is \_\_\_\_\_ , or even worse than useless
- 12) Tongues ceased of themselves at some point; church history suggests at the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ era

### I. WHY DID PAUL SPEAK OF “A TONGUE” BUT ALSO “TONGUES”?

- A. 1 Cor.14 at times speaks of “a tongue,” at others “tongues,” not for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_ or by accident
- B. The old KJV highlights this difference by adding the word \_\_\_\_\_ before “tongue” but not “tongues”
  - 1) When Paul spoke of a tongue or unknown tongue he meant \_\_\_\_\_ speech, nonsensical syllables
  - 2) When Paul spoke of tongues he meant the ability to speak in \_\_\_\_\_ that had never been learned

### II. HOW DID THE CORINTHIANS COME TO ENGAGE IN ECSTATIC TONGUES-SPEAKING?

- A. Gentile believers imported this ecstatic speech from pagan \_\_\_\_\_ they practiced before conversion
- B. During the 18 months Paul was at Corinth, he shared with them what happened at \_\_\_\_\_
- C. After Paul left, immature believers substituted ecstatic speech for the genuine gift of \_\_\_\_\_
- D. This counterfeit experience swept through the church and caused \_\_\_\_\_ between those who practiced this new form of tongues and those who did not
- E. Someone communicated this \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul along with numerous other problems in the church
- F. Paul was seeking to correct this counterfeit, but he was in no position to simply tell the Corinthians to just \_\_\_\_\_ it; he had to persuade them to take their focus from it and put it on more edifying gifts

### III. HOW DID PAUL PERSUADE THE CORINTHIANS REGARDING ECSTATIC TONGUES-SPEAKING?

- A. The Two-Fold Emphasis:
  - 1) Pursue Love: “pursue” means to chase something down and refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ until you catch it
  - 2) Seek to \_\_\_\_\_ : this word group is used 5 times in this section & the idea is in nearly every verse
- B. The Three-Sided Contrast:
  - 1) The legitimate gift of \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) The ecstatic tongues-speaking being practiced at \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) The gift of \_\_\_\_\_