

Week 25 LEADER Discussion Questions

LEADERS—Please consider talking with your group about the upcoming opportunities to serve together during Easter Weekend and our 6:8 meal packing the first weekend of May. Both are excellent ways to demonstrate the gospel through words and actions. Find out more at calvarybible.com.

Text: 1 Cor 14:26-40

Icebreaker: What's your favorite icebreaker question?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out to you from the text or from the sermon you heard Sunday?

2. Verses 26-33 contain the purpose behind Paul's instruction for the church's worship "when you come together." How would you summarize that purpose?

Key statements include "Let all things be done for building up" and "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace." Our worship ought to reflect the nature and character of God, especially his love, self-sacrifice, and peace.

Application: What kind of problems could we expect if everyone decided to exercise their gifts without regard for order or structure?

3. **Application:** Paul offers specific instruction for how order can be attained, including the call for some to remain silent (verses 28 and 30) in certain situations. How can we balance the call to exercise our gifts with the need to sometimes refrain from using them?

This is a theme that has been recurring over the past weeks. We should seek to employ our gifts but we should also not demand that those around us create the "space" for us to employ them whenever and however we desire. God is glorified by us using what he has given us, but he's also glorified when we are willing to step aside to let another use their gifts. This calls for discernment and humility, and of course, love!

Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to refrain from using a gift? If so, explain what the situation was.

4. Verses 33-35 demonstrate the importance of context. Which of the following true statements do you think is relevant for how we ought to understand these verses? Why?

- a. Women in the first century were often restricted from formal education.
- b. Socially in the first century, it was often perceived as inappropriate or even scandalous for a woman to interact openly with men.
- c. 1 Corinthians 11:5 includes instructions for what women ought to do in order to pray or prophesy in the church.

All three of these are important factors to consider. Starting with the last one, Paul cannot mean that all women at all times in all places must not speak in church because that would be a blatant contradiction of what he said back in chapter 11 where he instructed women (in another challenging passage) to cover their heads while praying or prophesying. It's likely that there are cultural issues at play here which points a and b describe. In such a setting, it's best for wives to learn from their husbands at home rather than to use the worship service as a place to ask questions. The motivation, again, is that there would be good order in the worship service.

5. Application: "All things should be done decently and in order." When you think about Calvary's worship services, how well do you think we are exercising our gifts in an orderly fashion? Are there ways where you think things could be more orderly than they are? Explain what you think.