

HOW THINGS SHOULD BE DONE IN THE CHURCH
I COR. 14:21-40

Introduction:

- A. There is a need for order in all things. v40.
 - 1. Not a reference to unruly conduct.
 - 2. A system, a rank to things.

- B. The two requisites.
 - 1. Decently = enschemonos - gracefully, with dignity.
 - 2. in order = taksis - arrangement, series, setting in order.

- C. The gifts in the church should be exercised with consideration to decency and order.
 - 1. Let everything be done in its proper order.
 - 2. Let all things be done with dignity.

[THE "ORDER" OF TONGUES]

I. TONGUES ARE FOR UNBELIEVERS. v21-25

- A. Why did God send "foreigners" to Israel?
 - 1. v21.

- B. Tongues are for unbelievers.
 - 1. v22, sign = semeion - an ensign, a signal.

- C. [Which way?] The truth understood has power.
 - 1. v23-25, mad = mainomai = to rage.

[AN EXAMPLE OF AN "ORDERLY" SERVICE]

II. HOW AN EARLY CHURCH HAD SERVICES. v26-35

- A. How should it be?
 - 1. v26.

- B. Tongues.

1. v27,28.
2. course = each in his portion.

C. Prophecy.

1. Only two or three. v29.
2. Let others remain silent. v30.
3. Do prophesying one at a time, not all at once. v31
4. You can control yourself! v32.

D. This is the way of peace.

1. v33a.

[THE "ORDER" OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH]

III. THE WOMEN IN THE EARLY CHURCH. V34,35

A. The "order" according to the "law."

1. v34, "as also saith the law."
2. Gen. 3:16.
3. The husband is first in the order of all things created.

b. The order according to the other churches.

1. v33b, "as in all churches of the saints."
2. This is the way all churches are doing.

C. "Let your women keep silence."

1. silence = sigao - to be silent, or when speaking, to cease to speak, to say, "hush."
2. This does not apply to speaking in tongues for "your sons and your daughters shall prophesy," "and on my handmaidens, I will pour out my Spirit."
3. Women were to prophecy, they were to speak in tongues.

D. "for it is not permitted for them to speak,"

1. permitted = epitrepo - to turn upon, to give or entrust to another.

- a. Women are not entrusted with the speaking role in the church.
2. speak = laleo - to employ the organ of utterance, to utter words of any language.

- e. "but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."
 1. commanded = sesthosan - to be subject.
 2. They are to be in submission, (as to the order of things) as the Bible teaches.
 3. obedience = mpotasso - to subordinate. We can think of this as arranging or ranking, as in mathematics, the "order" is, 1,2,3,4, etc. This must always be the order or the entire system is destroyed. To insist that the order should be 2,1,3,4 is to destroy the system. The order of obedience or submission according to God is, God, Jesus, Man, Woman. This is their created order.

When a woman insists on subordinating the man, "in the church", (not in business, remember Lydia) she is out of order and creates problems as 4,1,3,2.

4. This is well in line with other scriptures.
 - a. I Tim. 2:11-15.

- F. "and if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in church."
 1. learn = marthano - to learn intellectually from others.
 2. shame = aischros - deformed, what is offensive to modesty; indecorous.
 3. "If one of the women in the church has a particular problem understanding or accepting a particular truth, let her be taught by her own husband, for it is unbecoming for a woman to engage in a dialogue with a man when the body is congregated."

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- A. The Corinthians did not write the Bible.
 - 1. v36.
 - 2. Did you write it? Did God give it to you only?

- B. The spiritual members will receive this as God's final word.
 - 1. v37, It is spiritual to receive God's Word.

- C. Those who do not should be left alone.
 - 1. v38.
 - 2. Really, what else can be done?

- D. Don't stop doing God's will.
 - 1. v39.
 - 2. Don't over-react.

V. THE FINAL APPEAL. V40

- A. Only one way to do God's work.
 - 1. decently = with dignity.
 - 2. in order = in an arranged manner.