



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 37 Clarity that Invites the Amen: Tongues Pt. 1
By Pastor Jody May 02/15/2026

1 Corinthians 1:25 – For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense – *“God’s Wisdom over man’s pride through a Flawed Church.”*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 14:1-19 ESV

Prophecy and Tongues

14 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ²For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

⁶Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? ⁸And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? ⁹So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. ¹²So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

¹³Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. ¹⁶Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say **“Amen”** to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. ¹⁸I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.



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Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”
People – “Thanks be to God.”

Pray

Illustration

I think all of us have encountered at some time in our past a job, position, where perhaps you were on a team and you may have experienced some **show boating** by a leader or co-team member, that was hogging praise or the spotlight, making the success all about them. They would say things condescending about you or others, they would look down at people as if they gave nothing in contribution to get the group where they were. Perhaps you had a boss that spent a lot of money on personal effects but rarely/never paid out bonuses. It may have even gotten to the point where you finally said something, but you were ignored, or you saw the team damaged by poor sportsmanship or comradery, or you may even have quit or walked out! I have experienced some of that as well, and it is a tough thing to go through, and it kills the moral of the group you are with, and what makes it worse is many times you can even see the potential of the TEAM if not for that one person!

This type of behavior is no stranger in the church, and I have seen it destroy the churches from the inside out. The church to function well as a church needs to be unified, in cause and purpose, and attention seeking leadership will suck that well dry. BUT you can also overcorrect and become focused on simply “unity” and miss the whole target of existing, **to BRING glory to Christ!** A church unified in the wrong stuff makes a diseased body and creates an altered image of Christ. What makes a church unified while growing in Holiness and Love is when they work hard developing their doctrinal chops on the fruit of the Gospel: **Philippians 4:8** “*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*” These are the things that invite a hardy Amen! We need to desire and develop a **Gospel Clarity that Invites the Amen!** HCC let us not boast in our gifts, let us not boast in misplaced unifying efforts, let us not boast in our leadership, but let us boast about who we **love the most, Christ!**



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Introduction

“Amen” in Scripture means “truly,” “surely,” or “so be it.” It expresses firm agreement, faith, and commitment to what has been said.¹ We use it after scripture being read to mean, “truly this is faithful and worthy”, or after prayers to mean, “so be it”, and as a corporate agreement in preaching and teaching to mean, “this is true” or “may it be so”. Sometimes those agreements come naturally and sometimes the preacher must call for them, and they may come reluctantly. The point is the use of this word has long been a tradition even before the NT church. An “Amen” was used to produce a sign of corporate agreement, signaling God’s present in the Spirit forming unity, among the body. AND when that ‘Amen’ is given out loud from the body it is a witness to everyone in ear shot that the stated truth should be accepted, and God should be praised!

There is a place in our text today where Paul brings attention to this word, the need for it, and what can keep it from happening in the church. As a matter of fact, he stated in the beginning of this letter, the extreme importance of being one mind that could produce that corporate agreement.

1 Cor 1:10 ESV

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you **agree**, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be **united** in the same **mind** and the same **judgment**.

Paul knows that the way to clean up the Corinthian church is to get them unified on their beliefs, and the function of the corporate “Amen” shows that is happening. The Body Corporate is coming together/uniting in heart and mind when they all together cry out “Amen”, BUT the practice of **Speaking in Tongues** has gotten the whole church off course and Paul wants to right the ship!

¹ Root meaning: From Hebrew ‘aman = to be firm, faithful, reliable. The Greek New Testament simply carries the word over as “amen.”



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¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit (the speaking of in tongues where there is no interpretation), how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “**Amen**” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

The accusation was, how can what you are doing be for the good of the church ‘IF’ the church is not being built up!? The church being “built up” is the church “**Amening**” together, **giving thanks for** the Glory of God’s Word as it is shown to be true, and no one is left out of this teaching/declaration for all are significant!

Now the task before us is NOT to use this text though, to preach against certain segments of the Charismatic/Pentecostal church in America. We are not to work at trying to make us look good, like we get it right and they get it wrong. Again, our calling is to **work hard to glorify Christ**, and then when that is seen by others, God will do the correcting and God will do the separating, and He alone will get the glory. No, our job is to preach the **importance of Church Unity and relate the danger of things that can get in the way of that.**

Now, along the way though we will have to define what is, “*speaking in tongues*” in the text. We will have to discuss the dangers /sin of proclaiming things in the corporate body that is not for corporate edification. We will also have to address what we may think is happening in the Charismatic/Pentecostal church of today, and why we don’t speak in tongues here at HCC. I want you to know though that just because we may not agree with the doctrine of present day “speaking in tongues” does not mean there are not good Christian people in Pentecostal/Charismatic churches. Some of them are very loving, Godly people who are even big contributors to things locally like CAYA lunch program, and local recovery/abortion ministries.

What we will do is use the natural flow of the text to talk about each one of these things in turn, and when given the opportunity we will address our views of speaking in tongues and why we believe it doesn’t happen anymore. Here’s why we want to do it this way – because the main point of the text calls for it, and that my family we don’t go against.



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MP:

Church Life Calls for Clarity to Create Corporate 'Amens'.

(the thrust of v. 16)

How do we build a unified church where corporate 'Amens' are given for the agreement of Word, Prayer, and Song propelling her people on Mission? First off, we take Paul at his word and focus on the **Aim of Love: Edification over Exhibition**. That means whatever you do among your church family, if you are truly fueled by Agape Love, it should be to build, not your ego, but each other up. Secondly, we will look at the **Aim of Worship: Understandable over Unintelligible**, how we conduct our worship, to produce unity, all should be able to perceive it and participate in it. Lastly, we will talk about the **Aim of Ministry: Construction over Confusion**; that is to build a unified church ministry all should reflect a consensus of will, cooperation in work, and collaboration over initiatives. If we are participating in ministries that divide us, then that is something we definitely need to repent of and change.

1. The Aim of Love: Edification over Exhibition.

14 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

Love is the Aim, Edification the Rule.

Paul after his beautiful explanation of Agape Love in Chp 13 restates again that the aim of any display, use, or management of a spiritual gifting is always to be done in the practice of Agape Love. Your gifting was given to you so that you may express the Love of God towards others. What builds up the church, what promotes unity, what promotes corporate "Amening" over the truths of God, is when we as a people accept that what we have is for the neighbor sitting next to you. Until you get that point you can't move on.

Paul finally here in Chp 14 gets to the point of Chps 12-14 and that is to confront this problem of people speaking unintelligible words in public worship so certain individuals can be viewed as someone deserving preferential treatment.



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²For one who speaks in a **tongue** speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters **mysteries** in the Spirit. ³On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

So, what does he mean by, “speaks in a tongue”. The word for tongue there is γλῶσσα (*glōssa*). n. fem. **tongue**. Refers to the organ in the mouth used for taste and **speech**.² It is the same word used in,

Acts 2:4 ESV

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other **tongues** (γλῶσσα) as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

The disciples in the upper room, right after the picking of Judas’ replacement, on the day of Pentecost received the HS, and they each began speaking in a foreign language (*glossa*), as witnessed by Hellenized Jews, from other areas in the far east. We know they were Hellenized because Peter is speaking Greek to all of them in a general proclamation in Acts 2, and we know that what the disciples were doing were speaking in known languages to people from other regional areas, as they understood them in their native tongue.

Acts 2:6 ESV

⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own **language**.

The word for language is διάλεκτος (*dialektos*), or just a **known rational language**.³ So, the relationship here between v. 2 & 4 is that the tongues that were being spoken were known rational languages. Therefore, here’s what we need to know before going into 1 Cor 14 any farther. The Gift of Tongues was given at Pentecost to the Disciples/Apostles as a sign of power and truth that the Lord Jesus Christ is who He says He is, He came to unify the elect even

² The tongue is the organ that could experience taste and be quenched of thirst (Luke 16:24). It is also the organ of speech (Mark 7:33). By extension, it could denote a particular language (Acts 2:4) and could thus be used as a distinguishing mark of a people group (Rev 7:9). This noun could also refer to ecstatic speech as part of worship (1 Cor 14:2). Jonathon Lookadoo, “Body,” in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

³ διάλεκτος (*dialektos*), ου (*ou*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 1258—LN 33.1 (know, rational) **language**. cf. dialect (Ac 1:19; 2:6, 8; 21:40; 22:2; 26:14+) James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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those of different nations, and it was the answer for the curse at the *Tower of Babel* that dispersed mankind. It meant the fullness of that time had come in and now it was time to call together all men and tribes from all around the world to one unifying message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in Him alone you must be saved! The gift of tongues 'IS' the gift of a known language to spread the Gospel back out to the nations.

Acts 2 informs us here of what is happening in 1 Cor 14 when we see Paul address a **counterfeit expression** of this Pentecost gifting.

²For one who speaks in a **tongue** speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters **mysteries** in the Spirit.

Some Corinthian church goers were projecting the ability to speak in a tongue, not understandable to the church, but Paul says it is a (γλῶσσα) a **known rational language**. This reality is supported by the culture of Corinth which heralded people from all over the world, from multiple nations supporting multiple dialects, in this gateway city from in between the Roman World and all the Kingdoms of the East. These are people simply speaking in different unknown dialects to the people in the church, claiming supernatural gifting.

Well PJ what about the miracle or the mystery of the event?

²...but he utters **mysteries** in the Spirit. No one understands, because no one is offering a translation of the different dialect, therefore only God knows what you are saying. Paul is commenting on a reality, not a miracle. This is not about a mysterious unknown heavenly angelic spiritual language for the Greek word for tongue (γλῶσσα) does not allow that, it simply means a different language that already exists.

Then Paul goes on to confront what the Corinthians are attempting here, to **garner attention** for perceived religious activity. The second reason why we believe this is a cheap counterfeit of Pentecost is because the gift is not performed with the **Aim of Love!** Because the function of true God given gifts should be to edify not to present oneself as an exhibition on display.



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³On the other hand, the one who **prophesies** speaks to people for their **upbuilding** and **encouragement** and **consolation**. ⁴The one who **speaks in a tongue builds up himself**, but the one who prophesies **builds up** the church.

Paul uses the gift of prophecy to explain what a true God-given gift does. **God's gifts given in love edifies the church, they don't confuse it!** What we have here are Corinthians not really doing anything other than act out fake religious powers for social elevation.

They are just using a prior knowledge of a language they already knew to sound like they were being controlled by an unseen force to give the illusion of special favor by God. At this time there was a religious practice in the pagan temples in Corinth, where one would come under trances and speak incomprehensible gibberish, showing unsolicited control of demonic deities.⁴ What Paul is most likely seeing, **once again, (1 Cor 10:20-33)** which is the usual case in Corinth, is the bringing over of Paganism into Christianity; **Syncretism**. **If this was the real gift, there would be an interpreter (14:27-28) because a spiritual gift is given for body edification not exhibition of the user. The Aim is Love:** Edification over Exhibition, not self-Glorification.

⁵Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

So, Paul wants them to speak in tongues, because it is a real thing (Acts 2), but what type? Well, the type that is known as a foreign language according to his Greek use, and for what purpose in Corinth? So that more people in this multi-ethnic and multi-cultural metropolis would hear the Gospel! BUT even then, Paul is like, **desire prophecy more!** The gift that opens up the Gospel, to the church, it builds the church: it delves into the mysteries of God, the wonders of Salvation, the beauty of Grace! That pursuit builds the **Corporate AMEN!**

Let me make an editorial note here and again I don't want to get off the main point too far, but we need to address a modern dilemma of the **Oneness**

⁴ <https://www.gty.org/sermons/1871/the-truth-about-tongues-part-1>



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Pentecostal church movement. There are churches that use 1 Corinthians 14, to promote speaking in tongues; an **undiscernible language** both by the speaker and the listener, claiming it is a sign of the “Baptism of the HS” - and they are **wrong to do so**. The Spirit according to Chp 13 pours into the believer, Agape Love for the body, building up the body, not an individual, which has been one of the main supporting themes for all of 1 Corinthians. While modern churches where speaking in tongues is practiced the speaker does not know what they say, the gift is encouraged to show their Salvation, and interpretation is not given. Therefore, here are 4 reasons why we at HCC believe that using 1 Cor 14 to justify this modern religious practice is wrong:

1st the gift of **undiscernible tongues** is not really a gift for it **does not edify** the body but elevates the experience of the individual. (To use this text to say tongues is an angelic undiscernible gifting to be desired by men goes against the intent of the plain teaching of the text. Those who believe it is good thing to desire, actually go against the meaning of **Chp 14**.)

2nd the gift of tongues in Acts 2, is a known tongue (γλῶσσα) a different worldly language (διάλεκτος) used to share the Gospel. To make a claim that 1 Cor 14 is different, while using the same word as Acts 2:4, is to ignore the language of the text and basic hermeneutic principles.

3rd Problematic Corinthians incorporated pagan practices into church life (**Syncretism**), like the practice of muttering undistinguishable utterances as if in a trance to other deities. The sign of the approval of the HS though is the exact opposite - Edification over Exhibition / Order over Chaos. This idea is also by the reoccurring themes in 1 Corinthians, ongoing syncretism, mixing religions together and keeping what one liked.

4th In Conclusion, to use 1 Corinthians 14 as a reasoning for speaking in tongues falls way short of established accepted theological hermeneutical principles, worship principles prescribed in scripture and proliferates the sin of pride in the believer's life.

Family the Aim is love, and we love our brothers and sisters who are Charismatics, but we must love God's truth more and desire the edification not exhibition of gifts. To develop a church that unites in a hardy AMEN, is to make sure the **gifts** we practice **edify all**.



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2. The Aim of Worship: Understandable over Unintelligible.

⁶Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

Paul is solidifying the point now, that should already seem obvious to the Corinthians, but just in case it is not. If you are going to say something in a different language, then you best say it with a translation. Why? Because the purpose of language is to help one understand what is not known. Paul again brings up that language without the fruit of something being taught to the listener, revelation – knowledge and prophecy – teaching; the gift of tongues IS for the purpose of instructing not entertaining and definitely not confusing.

(Illustration) Look some of us wasted time last week and we watched the Super Bowl. If you were like me you flipped between channels while the game was on, and turned it back on for the commercials, even then the commercials weren't that great either this year. Then if you were unfortunate enough to watch a half time show you found yourself watching a singer, Bad Bunny, who sang the whole halftime in Spanish. What was that for, you have to ask? Well first, if you weren't aware, the majority of what he sang were songs that portrayed things I can't talk about from the stage. It was done in a different language supposedly to elevate Puerto Rican Culture, no problem with that, but the offer with no translation is that it didn't really edify Puerto Ricans just the singer, he got the attention not the people, place, and society. It taught me nothing of the culture, unless the singer was trying to tell me everyone grabs their privates while singing, that's all I know. The point is without a translation, it demeans, confuses, and builds gaps between the reciter and the audience and can even cause more confusion about the culture. The Aim of the performance was worship, but it was the worship of culture/self over camaraderie.

Perhaps if he wanted to build an ethnic bridge it would have been better to help us understand the unintelligible.



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BTW did you know what Puerto Rican did bring attention to their culture in the right way? It was their Governor **Jennifer González** who this past week signed a bill into law that recognized unborn babies as human beings.⁵ Can we get a hardy Corporate Amen! Her actions, written in a known language, cried out to Americans what is valuable to many Puerto Ricans, that man is an image bearer of God and laws must make common sense, and if you are gonna crave to debase human desires of lust then know you will be responsible for any life that is produced.

Well Paul has an example of this truth as well in text that how we use language matters.

⁷If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? ⁸And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? ⁹So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not **intelligible**, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

Instruments are just noise makers if there is no pattern or melody being played. But thought applied to notes, and music made with purpose become alive, and can sooth the soul or rouse soldiers to battler. The use of language is the same way, for the Corinthians if there was no translator, well just listen to Paul again form 13:1:

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a **noisy gong** or a **clanging cymbal**.

Speaking tongues with no translator, with no purpose is just noise and not pleasant at all but annoying like a loud percussion. It gives you a headache.

¹⁰There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. ¹²So with

⁵ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/puerto-rico-governor-signs-law-recognizing-unborn-babies-human-beings>



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yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

Paul is like look, speaking in tongues, all that does is make you strangers to each other, **is that your desire?** If you really want to manifest a true gift of the spirit, like something that teaches people about God, then do it with the **Aim of Worship**, desiring a gift, desiring to be useful, desiring to be used by God, to bring glory to Jesus that helps build the church!

OK PJ, since we already don't speak in tongues how does this relate to us? **Simply put, if we too want to be useful to this body, don't think of things to get you noticed, don't look for things you like to promote, don't push doctrines onto others you like of which are secondary, think of things to get God noticed.** How do we help people worship, are we creating noise among the body or are we making harmonious music, living in peace with one another, making soothing music like an instrument? Do we become a distracting noise around people confusing them with our words and actions or are we playing clear and distinct tunes urging/calling people to take action for Jesus? If any time in this body we claim to love one another and our language, behavior, and/or belief betrays us that is not something you should be doing. Think of who you are imaging, you are called to present Christ to each other in this room, how are we doing at that HCC?

Church life Calls for Clarity, and what we need to make clear is that what we communicate communicates Christ, not our own interests.

3. The Aim of Ministry: Construction over Confusion.

¹³Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

Paul is making the statement that the proper use of tongues, different known languages, is that what we receive from God is to be relayed to others for understanding, and that the person saying it has that responsibility for clarity. They are responsible to construct the image in their mind, of the revelation of God they are seeing, and then telling the people what exactly that is, they are not to add to confusion in learning Gospel truths.



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¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

This image Paul is using is simply to say, what I am envisioning in my mind, in my spirit, that's not the HS, btw it is Paul's intellect and heart together. If while in meditation and prayer as every Christian does, the benefit to others is to grab that and put it into intelligible words.

If I let that out, as in Corinth, if I spoke another language, I am more used to, but others don't know, then how did that help anyone? It is best just to keep quiet and enjoy it, until I have time to try and decipher it into a known language what I was thinking so all may benefit.

¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "**Amen**" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

What we are working towards Paul says is the **Corporate Amen**, the union of doctrinal clarity that brings Glory to Jesus in which the body can celebrate with an Amen, "**Thanks be to God, So be it!**" You know family, I have to go through this practice every week. I read our text, I ponder our text, I look at some of it's original language, I pray it back to God, I worship God for the revealed truths, I deal with sin, I start to write things out that I am putting together in mind and then I put it into our shared language, then I go back multiple times and ask myself am I conveying this accurately, not so I get credit but that Jesus is glorified! **The Aim of this Ministry** is Construction over Confusion/Edification of the Saints.

¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

¹⁹ Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.



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However you want to translate that, whether from a traditional perspective, or a charismatic perspective it means the same thing. Paul had the gift, he spoke in different languages, but it is more important to string together just 5 words in a shared language, than to spew an empty meaning into the air, that does nothing to bring clarity to the body in which they can share in beautiful blessing of the God's Word. **Clarity Facilitates the Corporate Amens!**

[CALL TO OBEY]

- **Pursue Love that edifies others not self.**

Ask one member this week, "How can I build you up in Christ?" and do that specific thing within seven days and ask others to hold you accountable. If you have been guilty of tearing someone down lately then fix that this week as well. Language is given for the gift of edification, communication, to help people understand the mysteries of the Gospel, do your part to make that happen.

- **Capture what you are learning about God and write it down.**

This accomplishes three things, you build on glories you see in the Word, you battle false assumptions you make about the text, and you can share what you learn with others, and keep it for years to come. See if you can sum up what you are learning in a clear 5-word sentence. **(Clarity Facilitates the Corporate Amens!)**

- **Fathers/Mothers sit and read the Bible before you sit and give the Word to your family.**

Take the time to make sure you can explain what you are learning, take the time to develop clear theological thoughts before you give them, make sure to develop thoughts that give Jesus glory. Then teach in your own homes when it is appropriate to give their own Amens!

MP:

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Let us all seek to clarify ourselves a little better this week, let us make amends where we have offended others, let us seek to unite on issues of doctrinal agreement, and let all we do bring glory to Jesus.

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Jesus spent the time in study of the scriptures, took the time to build His relationship with the Father, to cultivate a whole life of worship, so that in His communication with us, He made His teachings clear. He chose the right words at the right time, to honor the plans of His Father, and He put down desires to make Himself look smart and prestigious, instead bearing the description of the suffering servant. Praise be to our King who loved perfectly, Edifying us with His true **Agapē love.**

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. The Lord chose the hardest path of forgiving sinners who deserved damnation. He chose the lonely life of suffering of loving His Father rightly while we scorned His attempts to make peace. He chose to give us His righteousness and in return bore our sin and Father's wrath. All so we would be able to say one day, AMEN! "So be it, thanks be to God!"

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]



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* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

LBCF 1689 Chapter 22 Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day Paragraph 3 Prayer with Thanksgiving Is Required

Prayer with thanksgiving is one part of natural worship and is required by God of everyone. 8 But to be accepted by God, it must be made in the name of the Son 9 by the help of the Spirit 10 according to his will 11 with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance and when with others, in a known tongue 12

8. Psalms 95:1-7, 65:2; 9. John 14:13-14; 10. Romans 8:26; 11. 1 John 5:14; 12. 1 Corinthians 14:16, 17

[OFFERING+LAST SONG] “We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, who clarifies His love in the Gospel through the gracious gift of His Son and His Sovereign Election.

Go in the name of the Son, who lives and reigns and edifies His saints with His story, bringing many sisters and brothers to glory.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, who opens our eyes to the mysteries of God’s Gracious Love to give the witness of the Corporate Amen. Now go and tell this world why His love is so great.



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[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]

1. What does “pursue love” look like in the way we speak in our gatherings? Share one recent example where your words built someone up—or where you wish you could take words back—and what you’ll do differently this week.
2. According to Paul, prophecy builds up, encourages, and consoles. In plain terms, what kinds of words and practices in our fellowship actually do that? What should we cut because it doesn’t build others up?
3. If you had to instruct the church with “five words” this week, what would they be, and why? Share them, then explain the Scripture truth behind them.
4. Paul says to earnestly desire gifts and to strive to excel in building up the church. What one gift or skill (e.g., Scripture exhortation, prayer, hospitality, teaching children, interpreting, music) will you intentionally cultivate this month to edify others, and who will you ask to help you grow?



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