

## Order in the Church: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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**Key Truth:** Order in the Church involves balancing our Speaking with our Silence.

There is a time to speak and a time to be silent. In the first part of this chapter, while teaching on prophecy and tongues, Paul described the times we should speak. In these verses, however, he focuses on the “other side of the coin” – occasions in which we should be silent. Just as our speaking should be done to build up the church, so should our times of silence.

### **DISCUSS**

Read **1 Corinthians 14:26-40** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on “**Order in the Church.**”

### **DIG IN**

**In gathered worship our speech should be...**

**1. Silence in Worship** (vv. 26-35)

Three occasions to be silent:

Occasion #1: Tongues without an Interpretation. (vv. 27-28)

What are the restrictions Paul places on speaking in tongues? Why are these restrictions important?

To whom can a person “speak” while remaining silent in worship (v. 28)? Why is this an important part of worship?

Occasion #2: Multiple people prophesying. (vv. 29-33a)

In what ways is the policy of fairness at play in verses 30-31?

Why would prophecies need to be “weighed” (“judged” NASB), particularly in the context of 1st-century Corinth? What might that look like today?

Occasion #3: Women and prophecy. (vv. 33b-35)

Is Paul saying that women must remain silent at all times? If not, what are times when women can or should speak in the church? In what ways is it shameful (v. 35b)?

**2. Submission to God’s Word.** (vv. 36-40)

Why is it important that the Corinthians know that Paul’s teaching comes from God himself (v. 37)? Why is this important for us today?

Why is it important that “all things should be done decently and in order” (v. 40)? What might be the result when we fail in this?

### **DO**

In what ways will you put what you’ve learned into practice this week?