

**First things first**  
**23. Orderly worship (1 Cor. 14v26-40)**

John Percival

**Introduction**

- Imagine visiting a church...
- Three principles to learn from:

**Strengthening (v26-28)**

- A meeting in Corinth (v26)
- The limitation of tongues (v27-28)

**Order (v29-35)**

- The evaluation of prophecy (v29-33a)
- The role of women (v33b-35)

**God's Word (v36-40)**

- The issue of authority (v36-37)

**Conclusion**

- Participation
- Reflection

**Bible references:** 1 Cor. 14:12, 18-19, 11:5

**1 Corinthians 14v26-40 (NIV)**

<sup>26</sup> What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. <sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three-- should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. <sup>28</sup> If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

<sup>29</sup> Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. <sup>30</sup> And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. <sup>32</sup> The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. <sup>33</sup> For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

As in all the congregations of the saints, <sup>34</sup> women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. <sup>35</sup> If they want to enquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

<sup>36</sup> Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? <sup>37</sup> If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. <sup>38</sup> If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.

<sup>39</sup> Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. <sup>40</sup> But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

Further resources on men, women and gender roles

Books:

Claire Smith, *God's Good Design* (available on the bookstall)

Kathleen Nielson, *Women and God* (available on the bookstall)

Sermon:

John Percival, *Men and Women in Worship* (sermon from 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 on 1 Cor. 11:2-16, available on the Ambassador website)