

DISCUSSION IDEAS
ORDER IN THE MEETING OF THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

March 19th, 2017

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KEY TRUTH:

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY IS MOST EFFECTIVELY BUILT UP
WHEN WE MINISTER OUR GRACE-GIFTS
IN AN ORDERLY,
PEACEFUL MANNER.**

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: REVIEW – WHY DO THE GIFTS EXIST?**

Look at the last sentence in 1 Cor. 14:26.

What word does your Bible use, "for edification"? "edifying"? "building up"? "strengthening"?

Note that the actual word the Apostle Paul used was "constructing".

In other words, the image is that of building a house.

If we were given grace-gifts for that purpose, how does that work out in our individual lives?

How does that work out in our church body?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: CHAOS....(OR NOT!).**

Have you ever been part of a project work group where no one was in charge?

Have you ever heard of the medical term "fibrillation"? That is where muscle fibers in the heart all work very hard....at accomplishing nothing! Sometimes it takes a shock to get them to work together to pump blood.

Relate that to our life as the Body of Christ.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: COME PREPARED TO MINISTER IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.**

As we read 1 Cor. 14:26-33a, let's think about what v.33a says and how that applies.

What opportunities for chaos were there in this setting?

Imagine: You are convinced that God has put a word of encouragement in your mind, but Jack just keeps on talking and talking!

You feel like interrupting him. After all, your message is just as important as his.

Break down this passage, describing what you understand to be said.

In addition to our activities in church, since God intends us to be orderly, how does that apply to other areas of our lives?

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT FOUR: THE ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN.**

NOTE: These next verses have **NOTHING** to do with a person's relative value.

The second half of verse 33 is actually the first part of verse 34. (Remember that chapter and verse divisions did not exist in the original writings.)

Read 1 Cor. 14:33b–36.

What is the setting here What gatherings are in view?

Back to verses 26-33a, what is the context?

Did a prophet or a tongues speaker declare a message from God, or personal opinion?

Have any of you ever been in a situation where you have heard, "Let's get together and talk about this later."? The idea being that explaining the issue at that time would be disruptive.

Now look at 1 Timothy 2:8-15.

How do verses 12-14 clarify the general roles of men and women?

Is there any indication of relative value here?

For illustration: In both the airline industry and the U.S. Navy, one person is placed in command of a vehicle. The "second-in-command" is **REQUIRED** to correct the captain when the captain makes a mistake. A clear line of authority in decision making is essential to safety, but that has nothing to do with who is more valuable.

As an airline captain, I have often had co-pilots who were more experienced in that particular aircraft than I was, and I learned a lot from them.

So, what IS God's role for each of us?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION AT HOME:**

Think about 1 Timothy 2:15.

Let it sink in that God brought the Redeemer to Earth through a woman.

Read Genesis 3:15 and note the source of Satan's ultimate destruction.

Look at Acts 18:26, Romans 16:1-7, Phil. 4:2-3 and 1 Tim. 1:5. Note the deep respect for women.

Men: Think seriously about Eph. 5:25-33. Do you truly love your wife sacrificially, just like Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for her?

If that is not your situation, what are you going to do about it?

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Our Grace Church Elders: Pray for our elders as they seek how to do their part in God's plan.

Gettises: Pray for the Gettis family as they continue to get settled in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Cindy writes:

We are well and moving ahead poco a poco. David was encouraged by a visit to ESEPA, where he was able to sit in on a class and get to know some people he will be working with.

Steve and Andrew have been kind and helpful to us. Please pray for the tiredness factor...We are learning so much that we are exhausted by the end of the day! The most basic of errands is tiring and often unproductive (we learn we have to come back because we didn't do something.) Here despite great amounts of planning and researching one often learns there is some detail they didn't know.

Our health has been well but I can't eat any heavy food and have to eat small quantities. The kids' have been well and love the parks, the ice cream, etc.

Please pray the Lord provides us with a vehicle that is reliable and affordable.

Please continue to pray for Elba (*a friend Cindy has met*). She said she'd like to go to church and we found one we like so I'd like if she could come with us. We found a church that was extremely kind and welcoming and had solid Bible teaching and beautiful worship. They meet at ESEPA on Sundays.

Please pray we get to know some Ticos.

(NOTE: "Ticos" are Costa Ricans, so named because of a pronunciation that differs from most of the other Spanish speaking countries in Latin America.)

David's studies have been very intense for sure, but I think he's doing so well with the language. He's smart. He gets tired though. Please pray he picks up the language well.

Shelter Valley: Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

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Home Groups: Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Pray that each one of us would seek to learn how to use our individual spiritual gift(s) to build up the Body of Christ.

Pearsons: Continue to pray for John and Bobbie Pearson. John has helped move his mom from her apt. She will stay with other relatives until John completes the granny suite in his home. John flies back home to VA on Tuesday, the 21st.

Their son, John Caleb, is dealing with severe cancer. Bobbie and the daughters are outfitting a rental condo for John Caleb, his wife, and four children who arrive in VA on March 24th.

Barangonan Island: Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as the Ingvoldstads get settled here in Ramona and adjust to a new stage in their life.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as Binders make decisions about their new life in Germany.

Pray for wisdom, clear understanding of God's Word and continued obedience to the Holy Spirit on the part of the island church leaders.

Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

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Persecuted Believers:

Let's not forget to uphold our fellow believers around the world who are experiencing real and intense persecution for following Jesus.

THIS WEEK:

1. **Kyrgyzstan:**

Praise God - Marat Niyazaliev has been released from prison!!

Marat is well-known in his community for his Christian beliefs and for the small church he leads there. He has been suffering in an investigative prison since September 2015.

Marat is so well respected that he was chosen to manage the village's water supply.

As a believer, he administered the water system with integrity and would not let an influential Muslim man continue to steal water from the city.

To extract revenge, the Muslim man conspired with others to accuse Marat of molesting a young girl.

HE IS FREE!!

2. **China:**

Pastor Han was put at the top of a North Korean hit list. He was murdered near the North Korean border.

Pray for his wife and for courageous workers who are risking their lives to get the gospel into North Korea.

3. **North Korea:**

It was 10 p.m. as their car drove slowly down a dirt road along the Chinese border with North Korea. The driver, a VOM field worker, had turned off the headlights to reduce the possibility of being spotted by Chinese or North Korean border guards. Only the faint light of the moon and stars lit their way.

After arriving at a small house, they walked quickly from the vehicle to the house so curious neighbors wouldn't see them, especially the foreigner.

When they stepped inside, their eyes were immediately drawn to a young man sitting in front of a small television watching the JESUS film. He was a North Korean who had crossed the river into China for discipleship training. As soon as he was finished watching the film, he would be making the dangerous journey back home to North Korea.

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To avoid further endangering the young man and the home owners, the visitors left after a brief meeting, returning the same way they had come.

As they drove back down the dirt road with their headlights off, one of the visitors prayed fervently for the young man who would be making the risky trip back home with his new knowledge of the gospel.

Anyone caught leaving North Korea illegally, or without successfully bribing officials, is arrested or shot.