**LET’S ASSESS IT!**

**1 Corinthians 14**

Premise: Ministry is a movement. To fulfill God’s plan and purpose for our lives and for the life of our church, we cannot become complacent or stagnant. We must get *On the Move*! To accomplish this, we must honestly examine who we are, where we are, and what we are as a ministry, and with boldness, begin making the necessary changes to fulfill God call (Ephesians 2:10).

**DISCUSSION**

**Assess, Evaluate, Examine**

**DISCUSSION/DISCOVERY**

What are we assessing, evaluating, and/or examining?

* Our Statements – 1 Corinthians 1:10
* **Our Systems**
* Our Structure
* Our Strategies

Our Statements

SLBC Purpose Statement

* “To win people to Christ (evangelism), develop them to Christ-like maturity (discipleship), while cultivating relationships with one another (fellowship), in order to magnify God’s name (worship).”

Five Missional Purposes

* Evangelism
* Discipleship
* Fellowship
* Worship
* Service

SLBC Mission Statement:

We exist to Disciple people for God while Demonstrating the love of God; therefore, Christ’s last command is our first concern.

Our mission can be summarized with four words:

**Go** => **Preach** => **Baptize** => **Teach**

Vision helps me to better identify what my target is!

Vision is *vital* to carrying out God’s will for our lives.

**Proverbs 29:18**

Purpose gives me focus.

Mission gives me a reason.

Vision gives me a revelation.

SLBC Vision Statement

St. Luke Baptist Church envisions…

* People placing their faith in Jesus Christ through biblical evangelism;
* People experiencing order and freedom in and through wholehearted corporate worship;
* People growing spiritually through inspired biblical preaching/teaching;
* People finding community and family through biblical fellowship;
* People living out their faith through service.

Purpose/Mission/Vision must be clearly communicated within our church.

Purpose/Mission/Vision must be transferred from

Senior leadership => Lower-Level leadership => Congregation

Exodus 18:24-26

**DISCOVERY**

**OUR SYSTEMS** – Who Placed This Order?

1 Corinthians 14:40

\*What do you know about the Corinthian church? 1 Corinthians 13?

The Scripture in Context

1 Corinthians 14 addresses two (2) major themes:

* The use of spiritual gifts – the gift of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (vv.1-26)
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in the worship experience (vv.26-40)

There were some in the Corinthian church who lost control of themselves as they exercised their gifts, and Paul reminded them of the fundamental principles that ought to govern the public meetings of the church.

In these opening verses, Paul talks about two forms of speaking:

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – speaks to people.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – speaks to God.

Paul says in verses 4-5 that the exercise of spiritual gifts is to build up (edify) the body (church), not just the individual using the gift.

**vv.4-5**

We must be careful, in the exercise of our spiritual gifts, to guard against building up **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** rather than building up the body (church).

**1 Corinthians 12:21**

When we seek to only build up ourselves, we ultimately do damage to the body (church) and to ourselves.

Thus, we should use our gifts to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** each other.

If Christ followers are to be edified, their hearts must be prepared to receive the Word of God.

Always keep in mind though, that not everyone who *listens* really *hears*.

We cannot be built up (edified) without first understanding the lessons we are receiving from the Word of God. So, Paul uses three illustrations to help reinforce this point (vv.6-11):

* Musical Instruments (7)
* Bugle call in Battle (8)
* Daily conversation (9-11)

If a musical instrument does not give a clear and distinct sound, nobody will recognize the music being played.

If the bugler is not sure whether he is calling “Retreat!” or “Charge!” You can be sure none of the soldiers will know what to do either. Half of them will rush forward, while the other half will run back! The call must be a clear one if it is to be understood.

The musician, the bugler, and the everyday conversationalist cannot be understood unless their messages are communicated in a manner that is meaningful to the listener.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Just as our “statements” must be clearly communicated, so must our messages and the presentation of the ministry.

Paul says we should “seek to excel in building up the church” with our spiritual gifts. (v.12) Communicating in understandable language will help facilitate this.

\*Give some examples of church “jargon” that may not easily be understood by people.

Not only must those who are receiving the message understand, the one speaking must understand what they are conveying.

The principle of edification encourages us to major on sharing the Word of God so that the church will be strengthened and grow. The principle of understanding reminds us that what we share must be understood if it is to do any good. The private use of spiritual gifts may edify the user, but it will not edify the church; and Paul admonished us to “excel to the edifying of the church” (1 Cor. 14:12).

**DIRECTION**

Assess – Evaluate - Examine

Spend some time this week repeating/memorizing our Mission, Purpose, and Vision Statements

1. Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](https://ref.ly/res/LLS%3A29.3.5/2023-05-29T18%3A19%3A16Z/2703875?len=168), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 613. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)