**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 – 1 Corinthians 14:40
* 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.

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.

Our Systems – 1 Corinthians 14:40

1 Corinthians 14 addresses two (2) major themes:

* The use of the gift of tongues (vv.1-26)
* Orderin the worship experience (vv.26-40)

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

* Prophecy – speaks to people.
* Tongues – speaks to God.

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

We must be careful, in the exercise of our spiritual gifts, to guard against building up ourselves rather than building up the body.

Paul admonished them to “excel in edifying of the church” (1 Cor. 14:12).

\*What does the word “edify” mean?

\*How do we edify the church?

**DISCOVERY**

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

1 Corinthians 14:40

The Scripture in Context

When using the gift of tongues within the parameters of the corporate worship experience, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (the gift and its use) is critical. (v.13-14AMP)

I love a good “personal” worship experience, but how much better would it be for those with whom I am worshiping that *they* are included in that worship experience.

Notice the word “spirit” in verse 14. The Greek word used here is “*pneuma*”, which is often used in the New Testament to signify the Holy Spirit. Paul here uses that same word to denote the “human spirit”.

Unintelligible and uninterpreted praying or singing is for private use.

It is better to be a blessing to the church than to experience some kind of personal “spiritual excitement” alone and selfishly.

**Psalm 22:22, 26:12, 35:18, 52:9, 107:32; 109:30, 111:1, 134:2**

For your consideration:

How do you view the spiritual gift that you have received from the Holy Spirit? Is it a tool for winning attention, admiration, and praise from others?

Do you consider your gift to be an opportunity to glorify God and lovingly build up your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Paul asks a very pointed question at verse 16, “…how will the outsider say ‘Amen’ at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?”

v. 19 Paul says that he would rather speak five intelligible words in church than ten thousand words in another tongue. Why does he say this?\*

He goes on to encourage this church to be “infants in regard to evil and adults in their thinking”. What do you think this means?\*

He says that speaking in tongues is intended as a sign of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to non-believers.

To clearly proclaim the Word of God in the worship experience is to offer to outsiders (visitors) an opportunity to clearly hear the message of Christ.

They can be brought to conviction regarding sin and come to a place of repentance and accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

At verse 26, Paul addresses **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in the worship experience.

Orderliness in worship demands following a coherent **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

And note that Paul again emphasizes that everything is to be done for **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

Verses 27-32 lay out the process for speaking in tongues.

* Only two or three people at the most – with an interpreter. (27)
* If there is no interpreter, then they should remain silent and speak only to God. (28)
* Two or three prophets should speak, and others evaluate. (29)
* If there is a special revelation given, then one must be quiet.

He says there is room for everyone to learn and be encouraged.

The prophets have the ability to control their own tongues. In other words, don’t tell us that it was the LORD making you say those things…you have control of that tongue!

To suggest otherwise is chaotic, and God is not a God of disorder.

Verse 34 is a source of much contention within the church today.

Paul has already made it clear that woman can and should participate in the public worship experience.

ch. 11:1-16

So, what is meant at verse 34? The women should not be disruptive during the worship experience. They should learn from their husbands at home. This places a grave responsibility upon husbands in the Corinthian fellowship.

Finally, Paul says be eager to prophesy and do not forbid speaking in tongues…

…but EVERYTHING (related to tongues/prophecy) is to be done decently and in order.

**DIRECTION**

Assess – Evaluate - Examine

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

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