

**Why We Go To Church** 1 Corinthians 14.1-37 CTW: Col 3.14-17 pg 1002

Have you asked yourself what is the purpose of coming to Church on Sunday morning? Do you come to earn God's merit? Perhaps to show how holy you are? Perhaps it is social thing to do, come to church, fill up @ dinner, then go. How we answer the question will affect our attitude about being here. The wrong answer will lead to division, arrogance, drunkenness and spiritual blindness.

What is the correct answer? The answer, the key to this morning's passage is verse 26, "*All things must be done for edification* [of the body]." This answer will affect our attitudes, with what we think and feel about one another, which will then affect how we treat one another, which will become our witness to the community. The divisions, the lawsuits, the flagrant sins would all go away if people came to be used by God to edify, to console and to encourage one another. This should be why we come to church, which in turn will lead to ourselves being comforted, built up and encouraged in Love, which is the motivation. So how this edification accomplished? By pursuing love

**1. Focus {vs. 1-3}**

- a. Verse 26, Col 3.15-17 also states that come together with psalms, hymns, spiritual songs and teaching, revelation, though worship is not worded, it is defined.
- b. Paul spends most of chapter about gift of prophesy vs. tongues, that tongues, talking to God and prophesy – encouraging, equipping and edifying body.
- c. Focus is on God and focused neighbor's need. It wasn't easy living for Christ. People were fired, beaten, jailed for following Jesus. So coming together, becoming united, Bobby Joe may be an instrument of encouragement one week, need it the next.

**2. Order (verses 26-40)**

- a. Don't know about bulletins, but order was needed, One gets sense that many people spoke in tongues, and perhaps prophesied, yet Paul tells us 3 at most. And none if no one can interpret tongues.
- b. Listening to sermon in Spanish, awed by God understanding prayer I didn't, but did the sermon encourage? No, didn't understand a word.
- c. Context, bringing in a new doctrine, not being completely silent, for if so, then contradicts Paul's words in Chapter 11 about women prophesying. Women were using their freedom to distract, disrupt.

**3. Sensitivity (Verses 16-17; 22-25)**

- a. Message is for Believer but crafted for unbeliever to understand.
- b. Perhaps why preachers put an invite at the end of the sermon

These 3 elements are crucial to being a love-living, united body, it is why we come, to show our love, to be used by God in an orderly fashion to encourage, comfort and build up, and even perhaps convict and convert someone to following the Lord. We do so with the Word, by the Word and Through the Word. Why did you come today? If it is to know the same Jesus we worship...