

14:18 *I Speak in Tongues*

Paul Claims the Gift.

Chrysostom: Paul claims the gift for himself in order to show how unimportant it is. He does the same thing elsewhere when he points out that he is a better-qualified Jew than his critics are. ¹² Homilies on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians 35.7.¹³

14:19 *Speaking to Instruct*

Speak with a Clear Mind.

Severian of Gabala: Paul wants to speak with a clear mind and in a normal language. Pauline Commentary from the Greek Church.¹⁴

14:20 *Be Mature in Thinking*

Be Babes in Evil.

Chrysostom: To be a babe in evil is not even to know what evil is. Homilies on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians 36.1.¹⁶

14:21 *A Prophetic Writing*

Aquila as Paul's Source.

Origen: Note that Paul refers to the prophetic writings also as the "law." In this passage he is quoting Isaiah [28:11] according to Aquila's translation, and not according to the Septuagint. Commentary on 1 Corinthians 4.65.¹⁷

14:22 *Tongues for Unbelievers*

Tongues Not for Instruction.

Chrysostom: Tongues are a sign to unbelievers not for their instruction, as prophecy is for both believers and unbelievers, but to astonish them. Homilies on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians 36.2.20

Tongues, Prophecy and Miracle.

Severian of Gabala: Tongues are a miracle in themselves. Prophecy, however, is a miracle in the substance of what it contains but not in the way in which it is uttered. Pauline Commentary from the Greek Church.21

14:23 *The Impression on Unbelievers*

Good Order Valued.

Basil: Even if a stranger should address his inquiries through ignorance to some other person and although he who is questioned by mistake is able to make a satisfactory reply, yet, for the sake of good order, he should keep silence and direct the stranger to him whose function it is, as the apostles did when the Lord was present. In this way, speech will be employed in a well-ordered and fitting manner. The Long Rules 45.22

14:24 *Called to Account by Prophecy*

14:25 *Declaring God is Among You*

14:26 *Do All Things to Edify*

14:27 *Speaking in Turn and Interpreting*

If Any Speak in a Tongue.

Chrysostom: Paul does not forbid speaking in tongues, however much he may belittle the gift, but he insists that it be kept under control and used for the edification of the whole church. Homilies on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians 36.5.3

14:28 *Keeping Silence*

If There Is No Interpreter.

Severian of Gabala: The person who speaks in the Holy Spirit speaks when he chooses to do so and then can be silent, like the prophets. But those who are possessed by an unclean spirit speak even when they do not want to. They say things that they do not understand. Pauline Commentary from the Greek Church.⁴

14:29 *Weighing What is Said*

Restraining Obstinate Strife.

Cyprian: Each one ought not to strive obstinately for that which he learned and once held, but if anything better or more useful should exist, he should embrace it willingly. Letter 71.⁵

14:30 *If a Revelation is Made*

14:31 *All May Learn and Be Encouraged*

14:32 *Spirits of Prophets Subject to Prophets*

The Gift of Prophecy.

Oecumenius: If the gift is subject to the prophets, how can it not also be subject to you, so that you may keep quiet when you are meant to? Pauline Commentary from the Greek Church.¹²

14:33 *A God of Peace*

Empty Boxes That Once Stored Wealth.

Chrysostom: Truly, the church was more like heaven in Paul's time, because the Spirit governed everything and moved each one of the members in turn. But now it seems we have only the symbols of those gifts. We also have only two or three speaking in the service, but these are only a pale shadow of what prevailed then. The present church is like a woman who has fallen from her former, prosperous days and who

retains only the outward signs of that prosperity, displaying the boxes and caskets in which she kept her wealth, but which are now empty. This is true not only in the matter of gifts but in life and virtue as well.

Homilies on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians 36.7.2