

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **The Spirit-Filled Church (1 Corinthians 14:36-40)**

Date: **September 10, 2017**

We are continuing our study through 1 Corinthians and this week we find ourselves in 1 Corinthians 14:36-40, concluding a section of the letter devoted to church worship. Paul has already emphasized in 1 Corinthians 14 the importance of clear, understandable preaching as well as orderly, structured worship services. God is not a God of confusion but of order and of peace. In this week's passage, Paul teaches us about how we can be a Spirit-filled church. We will learn five important marks of a Spirit-filled church.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

**Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 14:36-40 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. What is Paul reminding the Corinthians of through the two rhetorical questions he asks in verse 36?
  - b. Pastor Jacob read a quote from John Calvin in which Calvin refers to the church as our "mother." Why might it be appropriate to call the church our mother?
  - c. Why do you think many Christians today disregard church history? How is studying church history beneficial to us today?
  - d. What types of historical writings would be good to read? What sorts of writings did Pastor Jacob recommend in his sermon? Why is it helpful to know what earlier pastors and Christians have said about specific biblical texts and issues?
  - e. Why is it important to show warmth and kindness toward other gospel-believing churches? Why is it helpful to be a part of a fellowship of like-minded churches?
  - f. What does it mean to be a prophet (v. 37) in our context? What does it mean to be spiritual (v. 37)? According to verse 37, how is someone's spirituality authenticated?

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- g. Why do you think many 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians are so quick to dismiss some of Paul's teachings as cultural and not applicable to us today? Would it be safer to err on the side of caution before we dismiss something in the Bible as cultural? Why or why not?
- h. Paul writes in verse 37, "the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord." What does Paul mean by this statement? How does this apply to other parts of 1 Corinthians, specifically the passage that precedes this one (v. 33-35)?
- i. Paul says in verse 38, "If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized." What does "this" refer to? Can you think of any contemporary pastors or scholars who are guilty of this?
- j. What do the terms "prophecy" and "tongues" mean in verse 39? What is Paul communicating in this verse?
- k. What does it mean that "all things should be done decently and in order," (v. 40)?

### Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why is it important to consider and study church history? What can you do to personally discipline yourself to learn from Christians that have come before us?
3. Why is it dangerous to isolate ourselves as individuals and as a church? How can we ensure that we avoid this?
4. Can you think of some things from Paul's writings that Christians are apt to dismiss too quickly as cultural? Why must we be very cautious and careful before we dismiss something as cultural?
5. What does it mean that the Bible is inerrant and authoritative? Why do we believe this to be true and how should this impact the way in which we study and apply Scripture to our lives?