

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 38

Chapter 14: The Ten Commandments for the Ministry of the Word

23 February 2018

BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT ARE NECESSARY IF A MINISTER WANTS HIS HEARER'S TO PROFIT

1. **The content of the ministry must be profitable (vs 3).** A preacher's message must encourage, comfort, or build somebody up in the faith (exhort).

2. **The source of the ministry must be divine (from God) (vs 6).** A preacher must be biblical in his preaching and teaching. Opinions, traditions, denominational preferences, personal life stories, etc. are not acceptable substitutes to feed people spiritually. You need a drink of living water (John 4:10) and some meat from the word of God (Heb. 5:12).

3. **The message must be specific (vs 7).** "Give a distinction in the sounds!" The message must be taught in a way that everyone who hears it (child or adult) can comprehend it. It should not be so theologically deep that no one understands it except the minister. Also, the message should not be vague. It should be very specific and very clear what is being taught from the Bible.

4. **The minister must seek to excel to the edifying of the church (vs 12).** People only have one day, possibly two days a week to hear the preaching of God's word. Ministers need to make sure that they are putting forth their best efforts to prepare a message that will make a difference in the lives of the people who hear it. Prepare to do your very best and God will bless it.

5. **The message ought to be understood (vs 13).** The understanding of the minister (what he understands) ought to be fruitful to the hearers of his message; people should benefit from the minister's understanding. Therefore, it's important for him to make sure he doesn't teach something he doesn't understand. Sometimes it's best to keep the message simple. If nobody understands what you're saying, you're wasting everybody's time. (2 Samuel 18:19-31 is an example of a young man who was eager to deliver a message but found out he didn't know what the message was!)

6. **The message should have a twofold accompaniment: Prayer and Singing (vs 15).** Prayer brings the people to God. Singing brings God to the people. That will prepare the people to be instructed in the difference between the clean and the unclean things (Old Testament Priesthood, Lev. 10:10). The preaching will be far more profitable if it is preceded by prayer and singing.

7. **The ministry should be multiple, but one at a time (vs 26).** Everyone must have the liberty to minister as God has enabled them. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Cor. 3:17).

8. **There must be an interpreter present to oversee the ministry (vss 27-28).** “Let one interpret.” God always makes sure there is someone in the church to make sure that everything done in the church lines up with the sound doctrine of the word of God. Sometimes special singing needs to be interpreted (or corrected). Sometimes testimonies can give a wrong impression if not explained biblically. Sometimes visitors bring some unbiblical practices into the local church; they need guidance.

9. **Women must not minister the word in the mixed gathering of the church (vs 34).** We need to protect our women from violating the word and the will of God. We must keep her from sinning against the Lord. Women who preach and pastor a church are in direct violation of God’s command. The Holy Spirit will not bless such a ministry.

The Charismatic movement was founded and is perpetuated by female leadership (Amy Semple McPherson, Katherine Kuhlman, Marilyn Hickey, etc). It is an effeminate ministry, even when the ministers are men. Women who preach are communicating to the church that it is okay to disobey God.

10. **The program for the ministry must be well-formed, decent, and orderly (vs 40).** We’ve got to do things God’s way, the right way, and leave the results up to God. See what happened to Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2) when they tried to change God’s protocol for the ministry.
