

Worship with Understanding  
(I Corinthians 14:15-20)

Introduction

- A. Some people will agree with anything you say.  
<People seeking election; salesmen, etc.>
- B. Sometimes people will smile and ask how you are, and then walk right on by.  
<Some Christians>
- C. Sometimes you may wonder: do people really understand what they're doing?  
<Do they care?>

1. Understanding in singing

- A. I Corinthians 14:15 – We must sing with our minds.
- B. We must know what certain words and songs mean when we sing them.
  - a. Ebenezer – a stone of help
  - b. Ebon pinion – wings of darkness
  - c. Panoply – whole armor
- C. We must be careful what messages we teach in our singing.
  - a. Rapture – “Till my raptured soul shall find...” (Revelation 20:12-13)
    - i. Rapture can, however, mean awe, or speechlessness.
    - ii. Thus we must come to understand what we teach through singing.
- D. We must understand the purpose(s) of the songs we sing.
  - a. To glorify God: “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah,” “Praise Him”
  - b. To encourage the weak ones: “Are You Weary, Are You Heavy-Hearted”
  - c. To remind ourselves/teach others: “The Church’s One Foundation” “Come Share the Lord”
  - d. To focus our minds on a prayer, sermon topic, etc. “Sweet Hour of Prayer”
- E. Now let us examine ourselves.
  - a. How worthy is praise that no one else hears?
  - b. How will the weak be encouraged by “silent singing?”
  - c. How will we teach others who cannot hear us?
  - d. How will we focus our minds if we think about other things or talk during a song?
  - e. These questions are rhetorical; they need no answer.
  - f. Ask yourself this: Do Christians sing out? “They should.”
  - g. Wrong answer: True, Christ-like people DO sing out.
  - h. Are you being Christ-like in your singing?

2. Understanding in prayer

- A. I Corinthians 14:15 – We must pray with our minds.
- B. We must be focused during prayer.
  - a. Not worrying or doubting (Matt. 6:24-34; James 1:5-8).
  - b. Have faith that God’s will will be done, and He will take care of you.
  - c. Not watching babies or looking around; intent on the words of the prayer.
- C. We must pray with correct principles.
  - a. Sincerity – Not as the hypocrites.
  - b. Solitude – Inner room
  - c. Simplicity – Meaningless repetition.
  - d. Security – He knows what we need before we ask.

D. We must understand what is to go into a prayer.

a. Matt. 6:9-13

i. Praise

- Our Father
- Hallowed be thy name
- Thy will be done

ii. Petition

- Past – Sins
- Present – Daily Bread
- Future – Lead us not...

3. Teaching with understanding

A. Nicodemus (John 3) – Jesus challenged him with the thought of being born again.

a. Nicodemus did not get what Jesus taught him.

b. Jesus: “Are you a teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

c. John 3:12 – “If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

B. In the same way, we need to understand earthly things and how they relate to God and Christianity.

a. If we do not understand earthly principles of Christianity, we will not understand the “hard sayings” of Christianity?

i. John 6:53-60

b. If we do not understand earthly things and how they relate to God and Christianity, how will we be able to teach others (they surely cannot understand these hard sayings)?

C. Ephesians 3:14-4:16

Conclusion

A. Does this make sense—do you understand what the scripture says?

B. One of my tasks, as a preacher of the Gospel, is to leave no doubt in your mind what your responsibility is.

i. If you do not have the understanding necessary to fulfill your duty as a Christian, should your duty be lightened? Certainly not! If Christ increased in wisdom (Luke 2:52) shouldn't you as well? Therefore you must study and gain understanding. Do not be lazy in gaining understanding. That is a primary reason why many people do not evangelize. They fear that they do not know enough.

ii. If you have let this lack of understanding prevent you from being fruitful, then you need to let it be known that you are going to work harder. “You shall know them by their fruits.” – People know you by your fruits. Come to us for strength. That is what Paul said the church is to do: when each part is working properly, [it] makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

iii. If you have not become a Christian, Understand that you are responsible for making the decision to follow Christ. Baptism begins that. However, a disciple is not defined as someone who does one act of allegiance. A disciple follows faithfully his teacher. Christianity, likewise is not peaked when you are baptized. It is peaked when you are able to say as Jesus did: “It is finished.” Are you ready to commit to Christ? You know that you have to in order to be saved (John 14:6).

iv. Are you “gripping the pew” tonight? Do you remember any cases of people in Biblical examples who were told to wait because the time is not now? The time IS now. So come.