

Gifted

The Blessing of Authority – 1 Cor 14:26–40

Message Reflection Guide

When the deck behind our house began caving in, I knew its repair would exceed my abilities. So I made some calls, got some bids, and picked a builder to construct a new deck.

Once the contractor was done, I took a close look at his work and noticed some problems. Seeking a second opinion, I called the local building inspector and got a surprise. The deck guy had not obtained a building permit. Working without official oversight, he had violated many points of the building code.

This incident reminded me of an important truth (other than asking to see the building permit): We often do less than our best if we don't have any accountability to the authority over us. – *Dave Branon*

Conversation Starter

What are some of the blessings we experience by submitting ourselves to God's authority?

Getting Into The Scriptures Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Pastor Jason said "The gifts of the Spirit are not the focus of congregational life. Worship and the Word are the focus, and the gifts flow under God's direction around the focus of worship and the Word." Why do you think it is important to keep worship and the word the focus of our congregational life?

The blessing of authority protects us from error. What are the dangers of ignoring biblical authority in personal lives and life as a body of Christ?

The blessing of authority points us to the Gospel. What attribute of God does Paul draw attention to and what bearing does that attribute have on our church services? How has God given you peace lately?

The blessing of authority enhances our worship and discipleship. How do you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit enhances our worship as a church? In what way do you need the Holy Spirit to help you in your discipleship?

Making It Real

1 Corinthians 14:39 "So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues" How open are you to God gifting you with a Gift of the Holy Spirit? What concerns does that raise in you?