

# FOUR PRINCIPLES OF ASSEMBLING by Joseph Horevay

## 1. Principle of Participation

1 Corinthians 14:26 ESV

[26] What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

- each one participates
- not all contributions are equal
- contribution reflects gifting, experience and maturity.
- silence is OK
- edification or building up is the goal

### The basis for participation:

#### Various Gifts:

1 Corinthians 12:4-12 ESV

[4] Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. [7] To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. [8] For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

[9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, [10] to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. [11] All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

[One Body with Many Members]

[12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

#### Everyone has a part

1 Corinthians 12:14-31 ESV

[14] For the body does not consist of one member but of many. [15] If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [16] And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? [18] But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. [19] If all were a single member, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

[21] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." [22] On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,

[24] which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, [25] that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. [26] If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

### **Diversity**

[27] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. [28] And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. [29] Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? [30] Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? [31] But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

## **2. Principle of Order**

1 Cor 14: 27-40

[27] If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. [28] But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. [29] Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. [30] If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. [31] For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, [32] and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. [33] For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

As in all the churches of the saints, [34] the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. [35] If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

[36] Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? [37] If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. [38] If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. [39] So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. [40] But all things should be done decently and in order.

### 1. Take turns...sense of orderly, thoughtful patience

- Violated by interruptions (rude, over talking, self willed)
- Dominated by the overly talkative.....10 people each with 15 minutes takes 2 1/2 hours, 20 people: 5 hours....
- not being thoughtful
- People repeat themselves needlessly.
- Off topic....not tracking or not caring
- propriety....discrete, not to offend cultural convention

### 2. If you speak it can be judged or weighed. Never be argumentative. Evaluated for both spirit and content.

### 3. There is directive authority in the meeting: elders with the mature:

- facilitate
- correct,
- instruct
- enforce.

## Notes on Authority:

While the Bible does not endorse authoritarianism (heavy handed or harsh leaders) it is clear leadership is exercised in the assembly and the life of the church. An ear mark of growing maturity is the decreasing necessity for formal leadership in a group or meeting.

Envision a congested traffic intersection with no lights, signs or policeman. If the drivers lack maturity, experience, wisdom or good character progress slows to a crawl or stops. When seasoned maturity prevails there is a good flow and good progress. Everyone is happy.

The church meeting has a goal of that kind of maturity...yet it rarely starts that way. This is a skill that takes time. The sad fact is participatory meetings are hard work because the traditional church has left us untrained to obey the admonitions of 1 Corinthians 12-14.

In church planting situations foundation laying responsibility is the task of the apostle-church planter. Once apostles have set in elders then the governance rests with them.

### 3. Principle of Clarity

1 Corinthians 14:6-11 ESV

[6] Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? [7] If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? [8] And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? [9] So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. [10] There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, [11] but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

also:

1 Corinthians 14:20-25 ESV

[20] Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. [21] In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." [22] Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. [23] If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? [24] But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, [25] the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

1. Understand who is present.

- Insiders & outsiders
- believers & unbelievers
- learned & untaught

2. Goal is to bring "some benefit" verse 14:6 via an action that conveys truth:

- revelation

- knowledge
  - prophecy
  - teaching
3. Avoid the “Yep they are nuts! Factor” v24
- wise use of spiritual gifts
  - our speech and choice of words are clear, kind and intelligible
4. Ask God to produce the “he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all Factor”
- clear communication
  - limited weirdness
  - Gospel content (Can’t be saved with out it!) The Nature of God, the condition of man and the Person and work of Christ.

#### 4. The Principle of Edification

1. Corporate direction communicated: where we are going as a church or movement

1 Corinthians 14:8 ESV

[8] And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

2. “The Amen” is needed (Sealed in truth. I understand and believe what was said!)

1 Corinthians 14:16-17 ESV

[16] Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

[17] For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

3. Edification at its core should be rooted in God’s supernatural

1 Corinthians 14:12 ESV

[12] So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

1 Corinthians 14:3-5 ESV

[3] On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. [4] The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. [5] Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

This requires we each press-into the gifts: We are commanded to “earnestly desire the greater gifts.”

## Expectations for a “house”/organic church meeting

1. There will normally be fellowship with food. Maybe a meal or lighter fare. This is an aspect of both hospitality and celebration of the New Covenant.
2. The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated. This may be in conjunction with a meal or not. [Note: After supper He took the bread and the cup saying.....]
3. We will pray.
4. We will worship.
5. We’ll offer a participatory meeting that encourages every-member ministry.

*[We’ll be sensitive and thoughtful to those who have not yet trusted Christ and instructive to those visiting believers that not familiar with the Biblical teaching of 1 Corinthians 12-14 that orders participation including the gifts of the Holy Spirit.]*

6. There will be teaching and Bible instruction.
7. Meetings will be elder-led or led by a delegated house church leader/facilitator.
8. Gatherings often happen in homes. Also it could be business space, rented halls or even a church building.