

“An Uncertain Sound”

1 Cor. 14:8

Introduction:

- A. The gospel message is too vital to be proclaimed with an uncertain sound.
 - 1. Should try to speak so as to leave no doubt about where we should stand in a confused world.
 - 2. Should try to live so as to leave no doubt about how we should live in a anything goes society.
- B. There are two ways that Christians avoid an uncertain sound in a world that needs clear direction:

Discussion:

I. By *Language That Clearly Expresses What the Bible Teaches* (cf. vv. 8,9)

- A. Tongue Speakers were to respect this principle.
 - 1. “Tongues” were languages. (Acts 2:6-8).
 - 2. “Tongues” were to be publicly used only with interpretation. (vv. 5,18,19).
 - 3. “Tongues” were limited even with interpretation. (vv. 27,28).
 - 4. “Tongues” were to cease. (13:8-13).
- B. All speakers of truth (public or private) should respect this principle.
 - 1. By avoiding hard to understand “theological jargon”.
 - 2. By avoiding “double talk”. (cf. 2 Pet. 2:3; 1 Tim. 3:8; politicians).
 - 3. By avoiding “glittering generalities” (cf. “four-square”, “against sin”, “for truth”, etc.)

II. By *Lives That Clearly Demonstrate What the Bible Teaches* (cf. Matt. 5:13-16).

- A. The uncertain sound of *hypocritical and/or inconsistent behavior*. (Matt. 23:1-4; 25-31).
 - 1. Behave one way among Christians – another among worldly friends.
 - 2. Behave one way at home – another away from home.
- B. The uncertain sound of *negligent behavior*. (Mt. 25:14-30, 41-45; Jas. 1:24-25)
 - 1. Hard to convince people we are Christians while neglecting public duty.
 - 2. Hard to convince people we are Christians while failing to try to share faith.
- C. The uncertain sound of *marginal behavior*. (cf. 1 Cor. 8:10-13; Rev. 3:16).
 - 1. “Border-line” living.
 - 2. Do actions leave doubt about where we stand on Bible subjects:
 - a. Oneness of church
 - b. Dressing as “women professing godliness” (cf. 1 Tim. 2:9, 10)
 - c. Vital issues that sometime divide churches.

Conclusion:

- A. Are you making “uncertain sounds” when you speak of Bible truth?
- B. Are you making “uncertain sounds” when you attempt to “let your light shine before others”?