

# 1 Corinthians 14:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

## Analysis

---

**Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge**—Paul regulates prophecy similarly to tongues: prophētai de dyo ē treis laleitōsan (προφῆται δὲ δύο ἢ τρεῖς λαλεῖτωσαν, "let prophets, two or three, speak"), and hoi alloi diakrinētōsan (οἱ ἄλλοι διακρινέτωσαν, "let the others discern/judge").

Diakrinō (διακρίνω) means to discern, distinguish, evaluate—congregational testing of prophecy (1 Thess 5:19-21, "prove all things"). Even Spirit-prompted speech requires evaluation because human error can intrude. The limitation to 2-3 prophets prevents exhausting the congregation; the call to "judge" prevents uncritical acceptance. This is ordered freedom: prophecy is welcomed but tested.

## Historical Context

---

Early Christian prophecy was spontaneous, Spirit-prompted speech (Acts 13:1-2, 21:10-11). Paul doesn't quench this but insists on congregational discernment to guard against error.

## Related Passages

---

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

---

1. Why does Paul limit prophecy to 2-3 speakers like tongues?
2. What does it mean for 'the other' to 'judge' prophecy?
3. How can we balance openness to the Spirit with discernment in corporate worship?

## Interlinear Text

---

προφῆται δὲ δύο ἢ τρεῖς λαλεῖτωσαν καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι  
the prophets G1161 two or three Let and G3588 the other  
G4396 G1417 G2228 G5140 G2980 G2532 G243

διακρινέτωσαν.

judge

G1252

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Corinthians 12:10** (Prophecy): To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: