

1 Corinthians 14:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

Analysis

What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?—
Greek ἐάπειρον ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐξῆλθεν; ἐάπειρον ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐξῆλθεν; ἢ εἰς ὑμᾶς μόνους κατήντησεν;) Paul's rhetorical questions expect "No!" The Corinthians didn't originate God's word, nor were they its sole recipients.

This rebukes Corinthian arrogance: they're not the source or sole possessors of divine truth. Paul has appealed to universal church practice (v. 33, "as in all churches of the saints"); now he challenges their presumption in ignoring it. The rhetorical force: "Who do you think you are?" The word of God came to them from apostolic teaching; it also went to other churches. Their idiosyncratic practices violate the unity and universality of apostolic tradition.

Historical Context

Corinthian pride (1:12, 3:21, 4:6-7) extended to worship practices. They apparently thought their charismatic experiences exempted them from apostolic regulation. Paul demolishes this pretension.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do these rhetorical questions puncture Corinthian pride?
2. Why does Paul appeal to universal church practice rather than just asserting apostolic authority?
3. What's the danger of thinking we have a corner on truth or don't need others' input?

Interlinear Text

ἢ	ἀφ'	ὑμῶν	ό	λόγος	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἐξῆλθεν	ἢ	εἰς
What	from	you	G3588	the word	G3588	of God	came	What	unto
G2228	G575	G5216		G3056		G2316	G1831	G2228	G1519
ὑμᾶς	μόνους	κατήντησεν							
you	only	came it							
G5209	G3441	G2658							

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