

1 Corinthians 14:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let all things be done decently and in order.

Analysis

Let all things be done decently and in order—Greek *panta de euschēmonōs kai kata taxin ginesthō* (πάντα δὲ εὐσχημόνως καὶ κατὰ τάξιν γινέσθω, "let all things be done properly and in order"). *Euschēmonōs* (εὐσχημόνως) means becomingly, decently, properly—with propriety. *Kata taxin* (κατὰ τάξιν) means according to order, arrangement, system.

Paul's closing principle governs the entire chapter: decency and order should characterize all worship. This isn't stifling the Spirit; it's honoring God's character (v. 33, "God is not of confusion, but of peace"). The present imperative *ginesthō* ("let it be done") demands ongoing practice. "All things" includes prophecy, tongues, singing, teaching—every element of worship must be proper and orderly. This verse sums up Paul's vision: Spirit-filled worship that edifies through intelligible, orderly, decent expression.

Historical Context

This closing maxim became a touchstone for Christian worship. Paul established a principle applicable across cultures and times: worship should reflect God's character through beauty, order, and intelligibility.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do 'decently' and 'in order' summarize Paul's vision for worship?
2. Why isn't order opposed to Spirit-led spontaneity?
3. What would worship that is both fully Spirit-filled and fully ordered look like?

Interlinear Text

πάντα εύσχημόνως καὶ κατὰ τάξιν γινέσθω
all things decently and in order Let
G3956 G2156 G2532 G2596 G5010 G1096

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 2:5 (Parallel theme): For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

Titus 1:5 (Parallel theme): For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

1 Corinthians 11:34 (Parallel theme): And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

Romans 13:13 (Parallel theme): Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.