

Why We Do What We Do At Sylvania
(And What We Should Be Doing, & Where We Are Going)
1 Corinthians 14:40

- I. Introduction
 - A. Why this series
 - B. Why this text
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 11-14 deals with church worship and order in it
 - 2. The breakdown
 - a. 1 Cor. 11 – Christian unity, order, practice, and sacrament
 - b. 1 Cor. 12 – Use of spiritual gifts to bless the body
 - c. 1 Cor. 13 – The absence of love makes the gifts essentially useless
 - d. 1 Cor. 14:1-39 – The issue of “tongues” and “prophecy” with prophecy being identified as superior
 - C. Paul leaves open “properly” and “orderly”
- II. So What Do We Do Here
 - A. In theological perspective
 - 1. The five “onlys” of the Reformation
 - 2. Sovereign grace oriented
 - 3. Meaningful church membership
 - B. In the corporate worship service
 - 1. Prayer/Confession
 - 2. Singing
 - 3. Preaching
 - C. In larger ministry life
 - 1. Missions (Local and International)

- 2. Bible study
- 3. Prayer
- 4. Fellowship
- III. What Do We Need To Be Doing
 - A. From the leadership to the congregation
 - 1. 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - 2. We need to connect in a greater way with the needs of the larger congregation
 - 3. We need to be more involved in personal touch ministry (prayer, counsel, etc.)
 - B. From the congregation to the leadership
 - 1. 1 Peter 5:5; Hebrews 13:17
 - 2. We need to be willing to follow
 - 3. We need to be willing to create a joyful environment
 - C. Among the congregation as a whole
 - 1. We need to know one another
 - 2. We need to love one another
 - 3. We need to serve one another
 - D. In the community, both here and there
 - 1. We need to discover the needs
 - 2. We need to meet the felt needs, thus creating a platform for the true need of spiritual renewal
- IV. What Practical Steps Can We Take
 - A. From the leadership to the congregation
 - 1. We can begin to systematically make contact with all of you
 - 2. We can not only pray for you from afar, but personally and organically
 - B. From the congregation to the leadership
 - 1. We can make sure that our comments and attitudes reflect joy, peace, and

encouragement. (not that criticism is not sometimes proper)

2. We can be supportive, both in word and in presence
- C. Among the congregation as a whole
1. We can be here and involved
 2. We can be proactive in getting to know others around us
 3. We can become part of the solution (if there is a problem) rather than compounding things that aren't quite right
 4. We can be mindful of the sharp use of the tongue (gossip, slander, libel, etc.)
- D. In the community, both here and there
1. We can get involved in the things around us – starting in our own neighborhood
 2. We don't have to be involved in everything, nor should we expect everyone to be involved in the work we do (Len's message on spiritual gifts)

- Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child
- Apartment Ministry
- Asian Partners – Training and church planting in Asia (focus on India)
- Bible Training Center For Pastors
- Caribbean Music Foundation
- Mexico-Global Partners (Conaways)
- Co-Operative Program of SBC, SBTC
- Campus Crusade/Jesus Film
- Eastside Baptist Association of the Philippines
- Let the Nations Be Glad (Cuba)
- Loving/Living Alternatives (Adoption/Abortion)
- New Harvest International (Nathaniel Adawanu)
- To Every Tribe (Church planting and training for unreached peoples – Mexico & Papa New Guinea)
- Boy's Home
- Food Pantry
- United World Mission – Hungary/Europe (Hollowell)
- KVNE Christian Radio
- Reformed University Ministry
- Baptist Student Ministries – Tyler Campuses
- Kalos Foundation
- Pastoral Development and Church Aid