

“Decently & In Order”

by Wayne Goff

While giving instructions to the church at Corinth on how to conduct the public worship, Paul commands: **“Let all things be done decently and in order”** (1 Cor. 14:40).

Our God is a God of order, not chaos; of design, not chance; of great intelligence, not happenstance. The more you look at the universe and its silent testimony to the greatness of God simply in its order and design, one stands in awe! Yes, we take for granted all of this orderly design, but we should meditate upon it *especially in light of our own personal orderliness!*

Human beings are flawed at best. We do not *think* perfectly, *do* perfectly, *foresee* perfectly, or *organize* perfectly. But to **whatever degree** our lives reflect even a small amount of design and orderliness, to that degree to show our foresight and intelligence. Let me illustrate:

Drive around a few neighborhoods until you come across that **perfectly manicured lawn** around someone’s house. By looking at it, you know someone spent a great deal of time selecting the grass, fertilizing and watering it, weeding it, getting rid of insects, and mowing it regularly. If that same person sold his house and moved away, there is no guarantee that the lawn would remain the same. The lawn reflects someone’s genius, or “green thumb.”

Go into a **friend’s house** who loves to design and decorate the interior. Look around and see the flawless choice of colors, decor, and management. Be impressed with the fact that everything has a place, and everything is in its place. The house is a *reflection* of the lady who has prepared and cared for it. It tells you something about the person — her likes/dislikes, her habits, her cleanliness, and her organizational skills. The interior of the house didn’t just get that way by itself!

Now try going to a **grocery store**. Perhaps you have been there when they were **re-designing** the shelves and layouts. A great deal of time is spent by the owner of the grocery store, as well as the companies that sell products, to make the store look appealing so that you will want to buy their wares! Did you know that “sales” has become a *science* to the point that some are trained in how best to set up a store for increased sales?!

God’s Order & Design

All of the above illustrations easily point out the fact that what belongs to you and me reflects something about us. But now let’s make the application to God. The apostle Paul said that God insists on His house of worship being a place where all things are to be done decently and in order! Since God is the Head of His church, He is telling us that **what** we do in worship and **how** we do it is a reflection on Him! God does not want a chaotic, unorganized mess in His worship! Yet some people have dreamed up the absurd idea that if everything in worship is some kind of sudden, unplanned smorgasbord of emotional outbursts that this is proof of the presence of the Holy Spirit! In reality, the exact opposite is true! *“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints”* (1 Cor. 14:33).

The evil spirit that departed from a man’s body in Matthew 12 went out looking for another habitation. When he found none, he returned to the original man’s body and found it *“empty, swept and put in order”* (v. 44). A sane man has an orderly body; an insane man has a disorderly body! So it is in the Lord’s House of worship. Jesus overthrew the money changers in the House of God because they didn’t belong there (Matt. 21:12). They were out of order! God wants done in His House of worship that which He has prescribed, in the way He has prescribed it! So where did man get the idea that the Holy Spirit would cause in anyone nervous gyrations, foaming at the mouth, and uncontrollable words of an unintelligible language? Not from the

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