

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 1 Corinthians 14:26-33.

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. "It's a jungle out there. Disorder and confusion everywhere ..." (excerpt from the Monk TV show theme).
2. What do we find if we read between the lines of 1 Corinthians 14:26-32? Disorder and confusion! 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40.
3. The English word "confusion" can mean different things. In 1 Corinthians 14:33 it means, "A situation of panic; a breakdown of order: *the shaken survivors retreated in confusion*" (*New Oxford American Dictionary*). "Disorder; upheaval; tumult; chaos: *The army retreated in confusion*" (*Diction ary.com*).
4. "Confusion" in 1 Corinthians 14:33 is *akatastasia*. It is also translated in the NASB:
  - A. "Disturbances."
    - 1) Luke 21:9 – linked with "wars" as in "wars and disturbances."
    - 2) 2 Corinthians 12:20 – linked with "strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance."
  - B. "Tumults." 2 Corinthians 6:5.
  - C. "Disorder." James 3:16.
5. *Akatastasia* is from and the opposite of *kathistemi* ("put in charge" in Matthew 24:45, 47).
6. The antonym confusion is peace. 1 Corinthians 14:33.
7. Confusion effects:
  - A. Churches. 2 Corinthians 12:20.
  - B. Homes. Jacob's household.
  - C. Societies. Acts 19:29, 32.
8. What's the big deal? James 3:16.
9. God is not a God of confusion! A Christian is not a man or woman of confusion! Romans 12:18; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Hebrews 12:14A.



**ELIMINATING CONFUSION:**

1. **Faith.** 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40.
2. **Authority.**
  - A. It is essential. Acts 6:1-3. God has established authority in:
    - 1) Churches. Titus 1:5.
    - 2) Homes. Ephesians 5:22-24; 6:1.
    - 3) Societies. Romans 13:1-2.
  - B. It must be effective. Isaiah 3:12B; 9:16.
    - 1) Churches. 1 Peter 5:1-4.
    - 2) Homes. Ephesians 5:25-33A; 6:4.
    - 3) Societies. Romans 13:3-4.
  - C. It must be respected.
    - 1) Churches. 1 Timothy 5:17.
    - 2) Homes. Ephesians 5:33B; 6:2-3.
    - 3) Societies. Romans 13:5-7; 1 Peter 2:17, "Honor the king;" Acts 23:1-5.
3. **Proper motivation.** 1 Corinthians 16:14; 13:4-5, "Love ... does not seek its own;" James 3:16.
4. **Wisdom.** James 3:13. Song of Solomon 6:5A; Isaiah 28:7.
5. **Understanding.** James 3:13. Genesis 11:1-9. "I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant" (Robert McCloskey).
6. **Self-control.** James 3:13, 1-12.
7. **Effort.** 2 Timothy 2:22.

**CONCLUSION:** It's a *jungle* out there? Really. Animals are preprogrammed. Humans must learn. Frankly, we need to quit insulting nature and become beings that by nature beings create order out of chaos.