“An Uncertain Sound”
1 Cor. 14:8

Introduction:
A. The gospel message is too vital to be proclaimed with an uncertain sound.
   1. Should try to speak so as to leave no doubt about where we should stand in a confused world.
   2. Should try to live so as to leave no doubt about how we should live in a anything goes society.
B. There are two ways that Christians avoid an uncertain sound in a world that needs clear direction:

Discussion:
I. By Language That Clearly Expresses What the Bible Teaches (cf. vv. 8,9)
   A. Tongue Speakers were to respect this principle.
      1. “Tongues” were languages. (Acts 2:6-8).
      2. “Tongues” were to be publicly used only with interpretation. (vv. 5,18,19).
      3. “Tongues” were limited even with interpretation. (vv. 27,28).
      4. “Tongues” were to cease. (13:8-13).
   B. All speakers of truth (public or private) should respect this principle.
      1. By avoiding hard to understand “theological jargon”.
      2. By avoiding “double talk”. (cf. 2 Pet. 2:3; 1 Tim. 3:8; politicians).
      3. By avoiding “glittering generalities” (cf. “four-square”, “against sin”, “for truth”, etc.)

   A. The uncertain sound of hypocritical and/or inconsistent behavior. (Matt. 23:1-4; 25-31).
      1. Behave one way among Christians – another among worldly friends.
      2. Behave one way at home – another away from home.
   B. The uncertain sound of negligent behavior. (Mt. 25:14-30, 41-45; Jas. 1:24-25)
      1. Hard to convince people we are Christians while neglecting public duty.
      2. Hard to convince people we are Christians while failing to try to share faith.
   C. The uncertain sound of marginal behavior. (cf. 1 Cor. 8:10-13; Rev. 3:16).
      2. Do actions leave doubt about where we stand on Bible subjects:
         a. Oneness of church
         b. Dressing as “women professing godliness” (cf. 1 Tim. 2:9, 10)
         c. Vital issues that sometime divide churches.

Conclusion:
A. Are you making “uncertain sounds” when you speak of Bible truth?
B. Are you making “uncertain sounds” when you attempt to “let your light shine before others”?