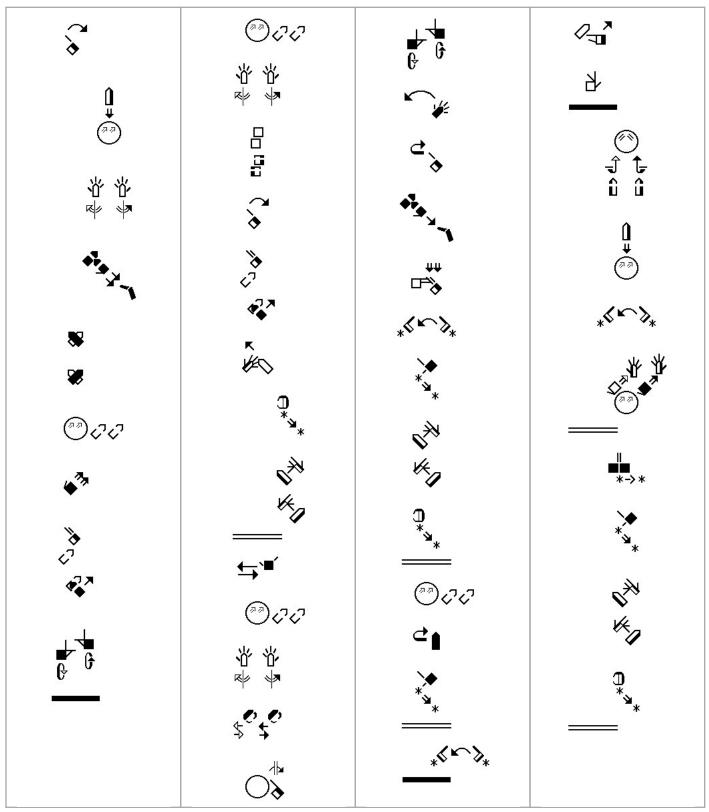


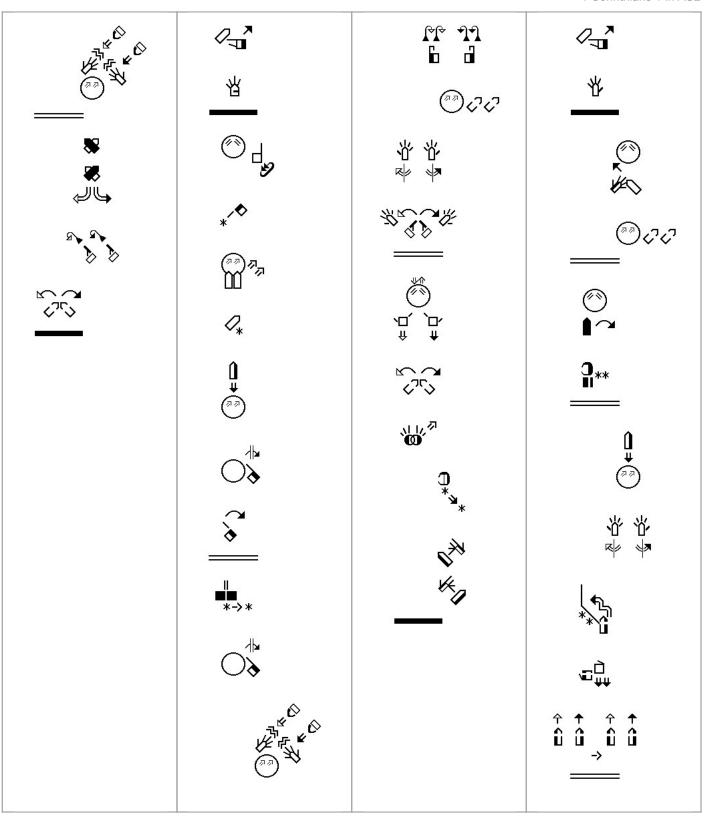
1 Corinthians, Chapter 1. This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes. Verse 2. I am writing to God's church in Corinth,

1



to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Verse 3. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

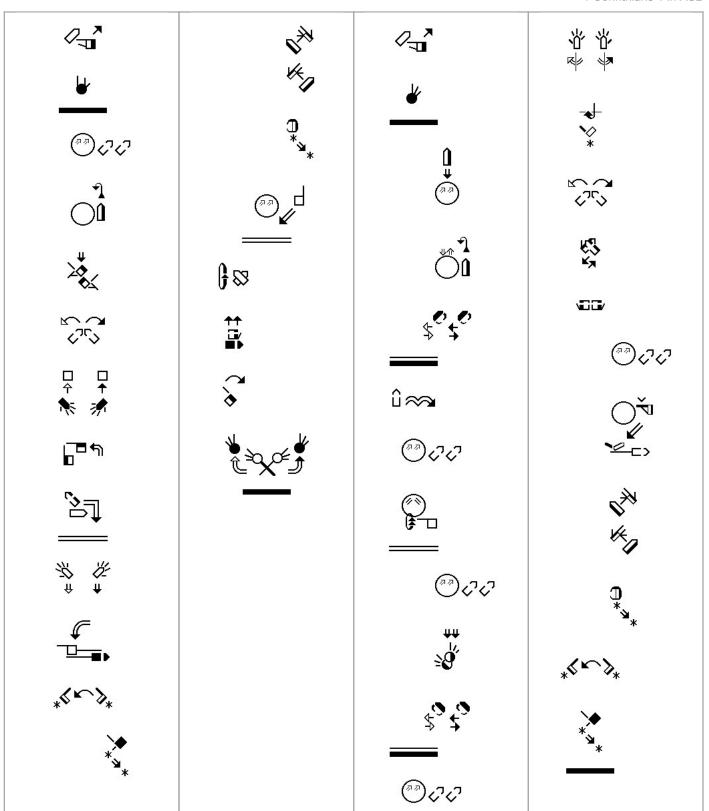
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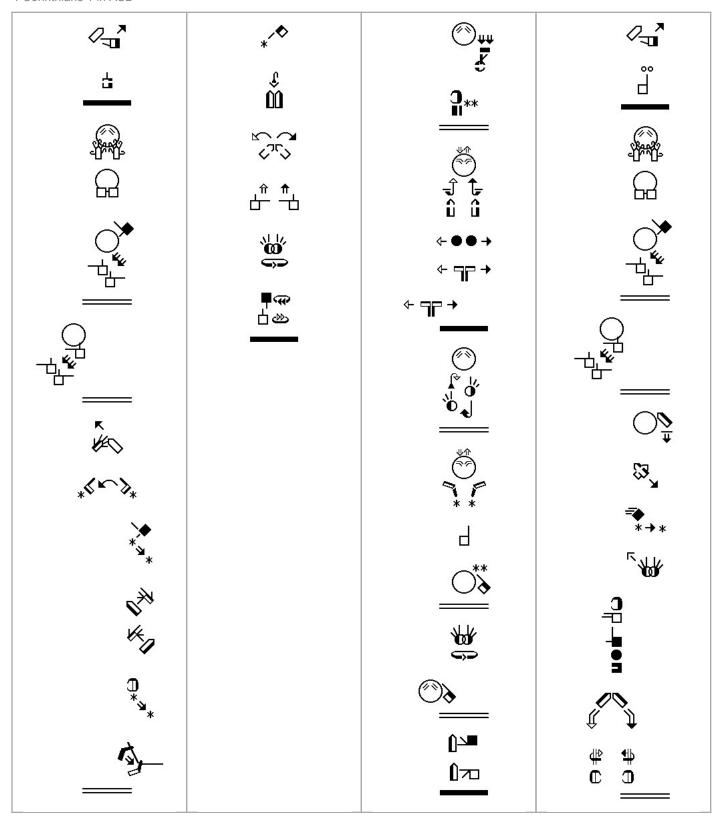
give you grace and peace. Verse 4. I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Verse 5. Through him, God has enriched your church in every way -- NLT

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with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. Verse 6. This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. Verse 7. Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

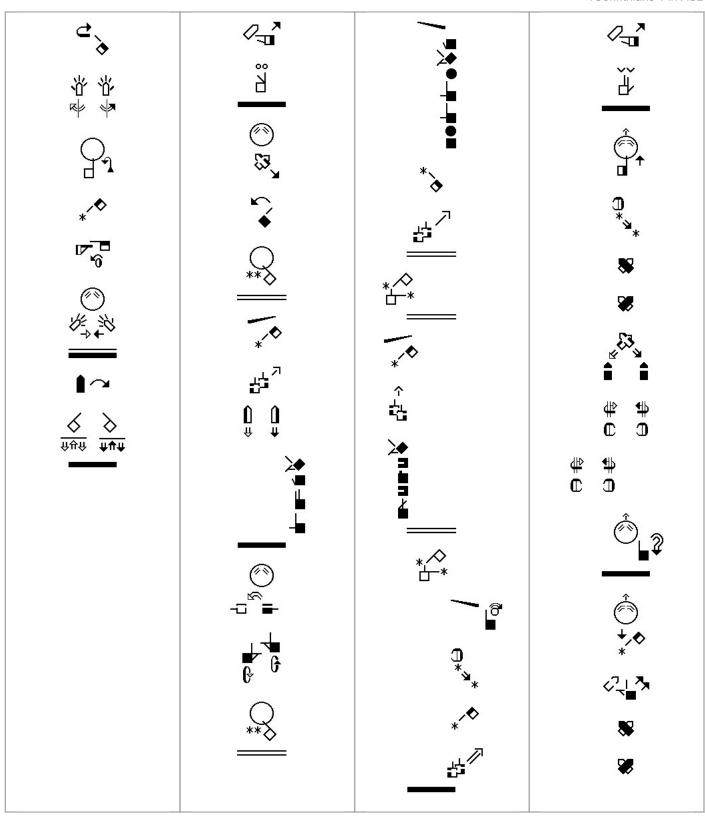


Verse 8. He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. Verse 9. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



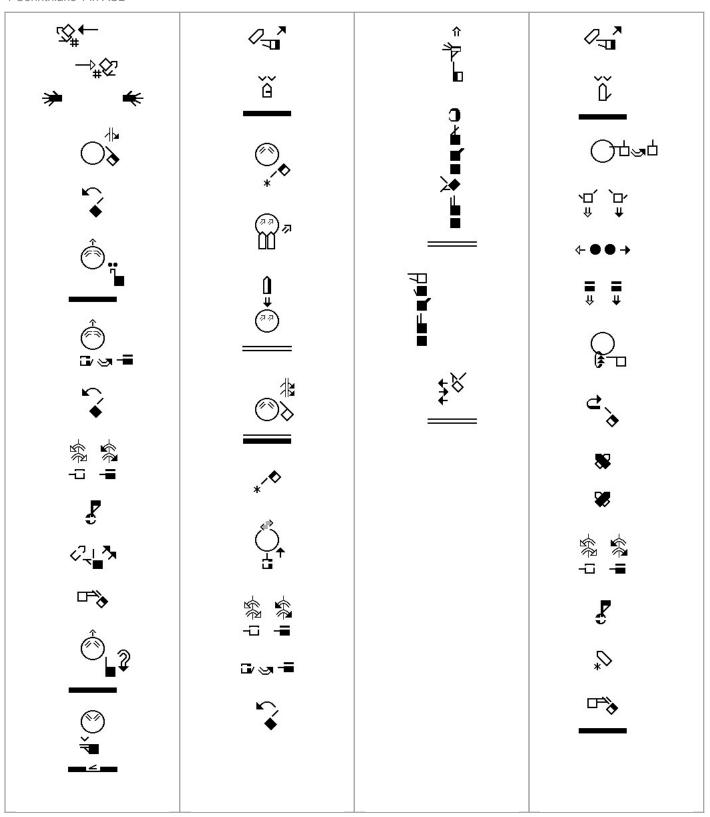
Verse 10. I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. Verse 11. For some members of Chloe's household

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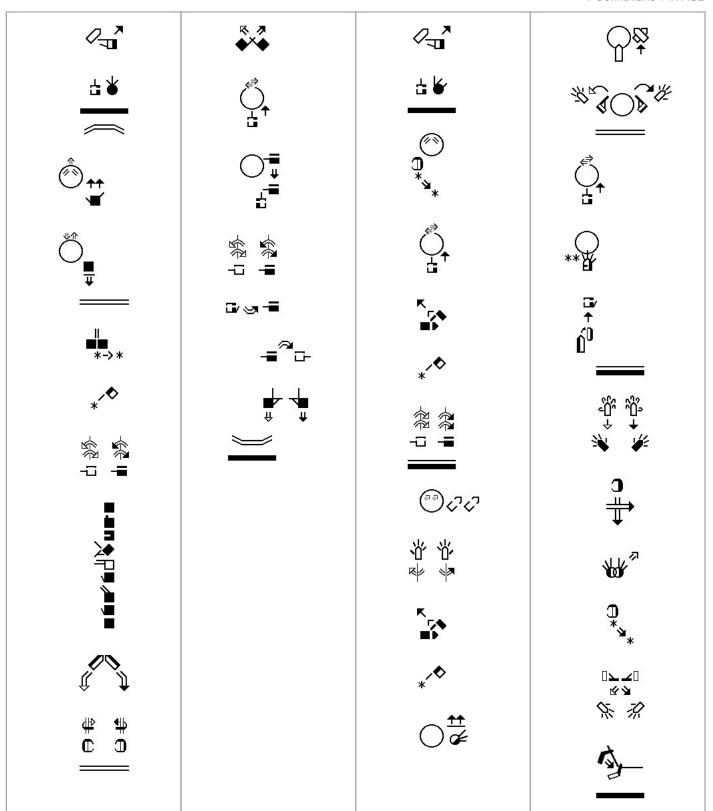


have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Verse 12. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ." Verse 13. Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul,

1 Corinthians 1 in ASL

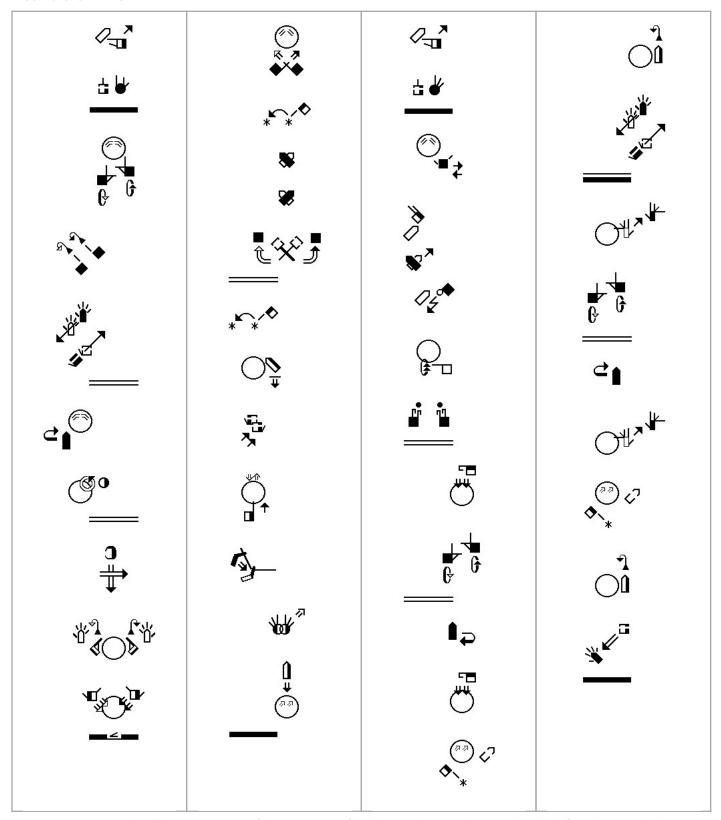


crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! Verse 14. I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, Verse 15. for now no one can say they were baptized in my name.

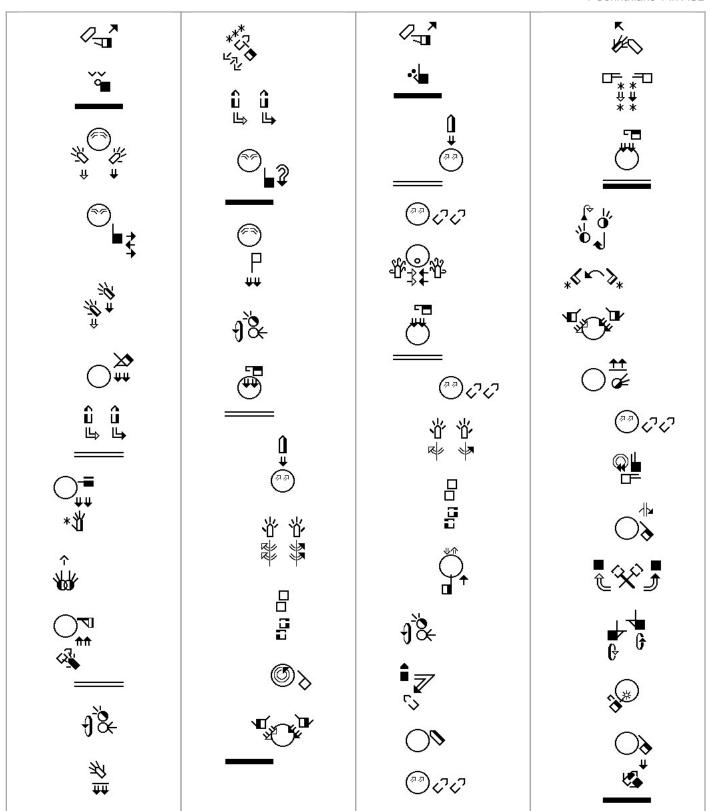


Verse 16. (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don't remember baptizing anyone else.) Verse 17. For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News -- and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

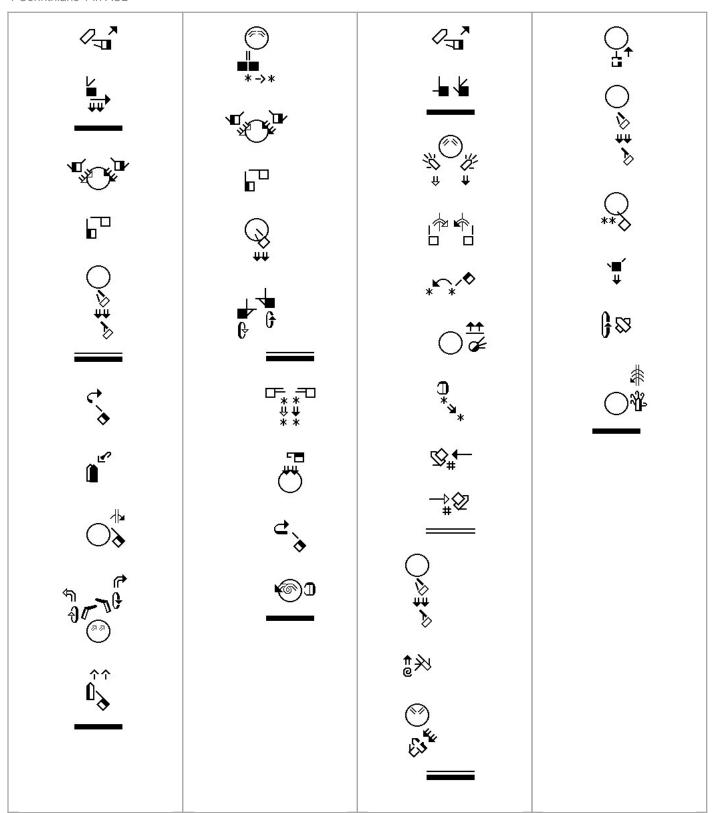
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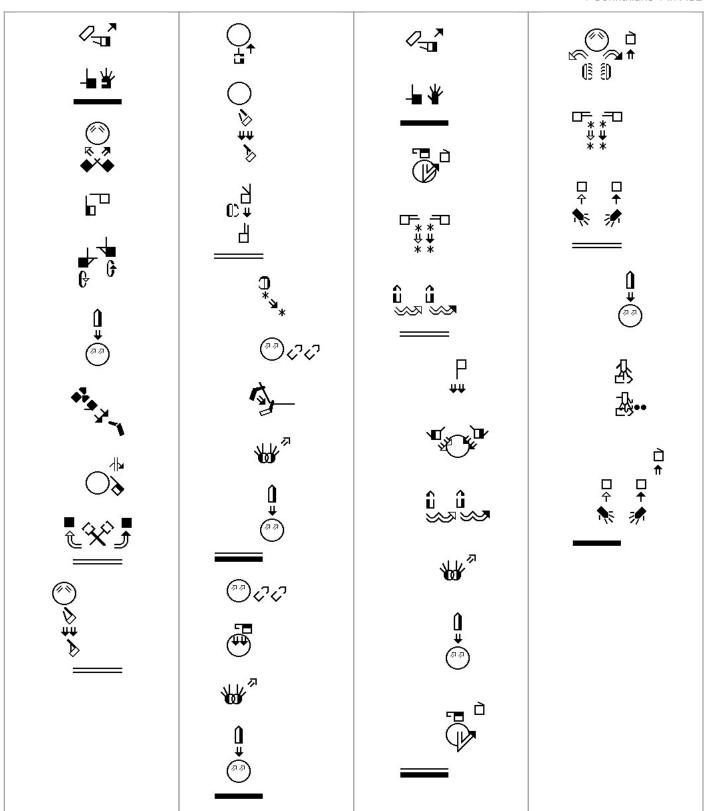
Verse 18. The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. Verse 19. As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."



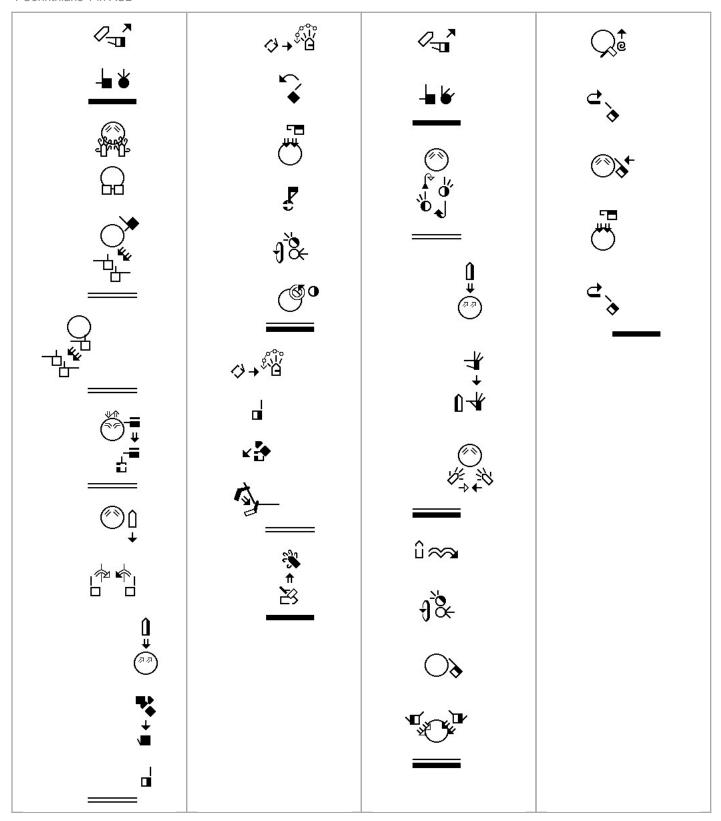
Verse 20. So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Verse 21. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.



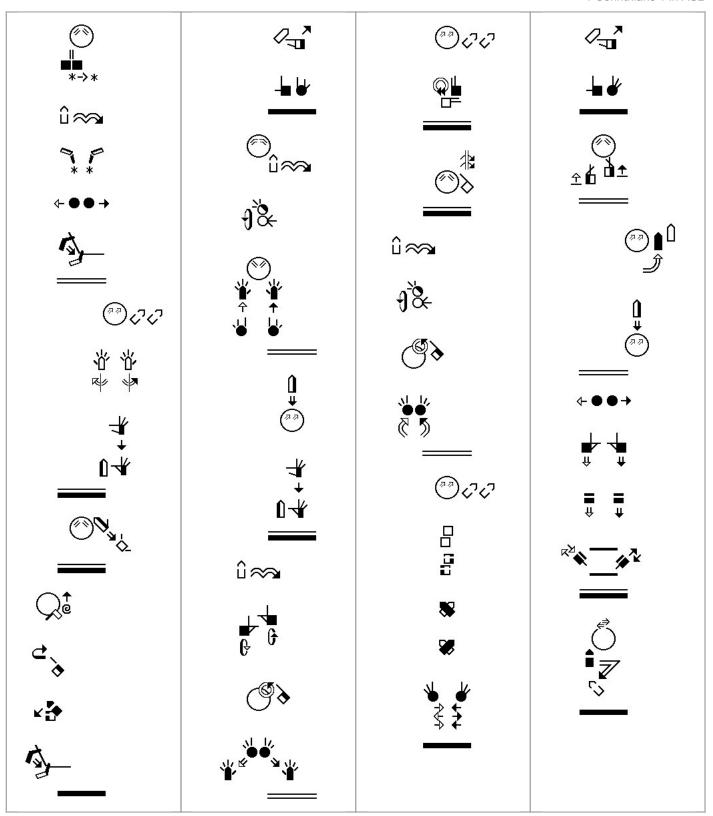
Verse 22. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. Verse 23. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.



Verse 24. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of Good and the wisdom of God. Verse 25. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

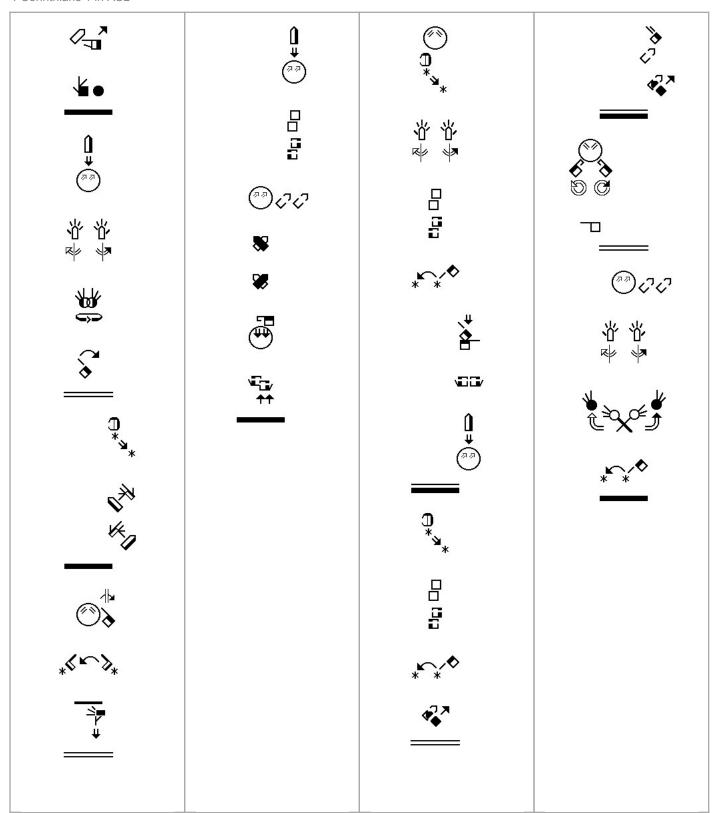


Verse 26. Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Verse 27. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise.



And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. Verse 28. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. Verse 29. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

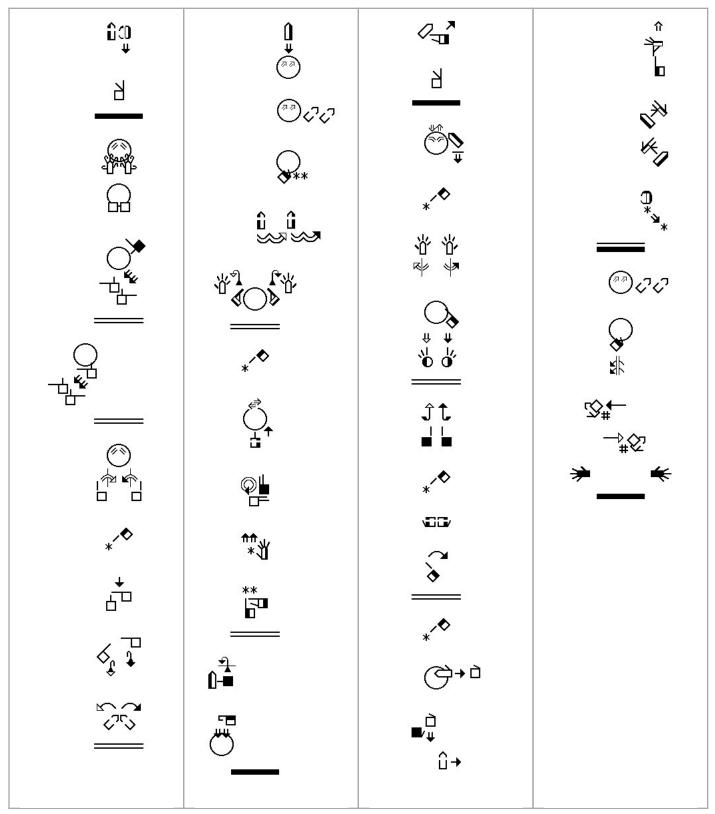
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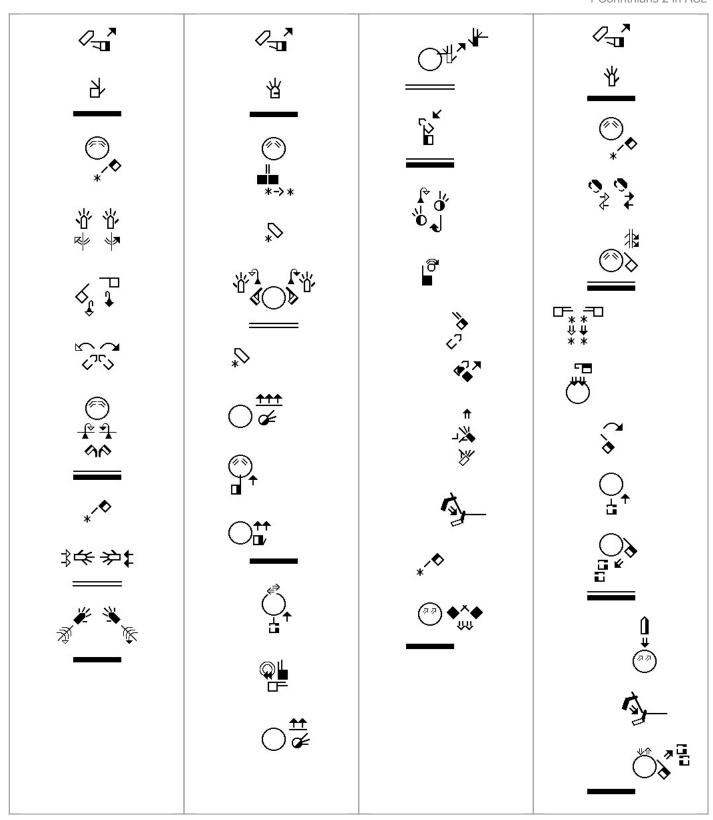
Verse 30. God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

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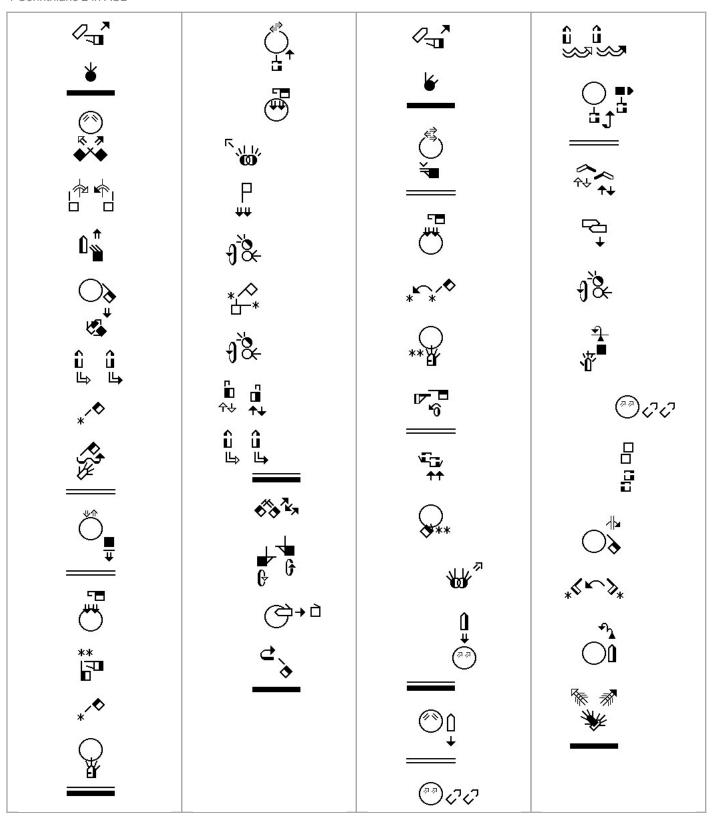


Chapter 2. When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. Verse 2. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. NLT

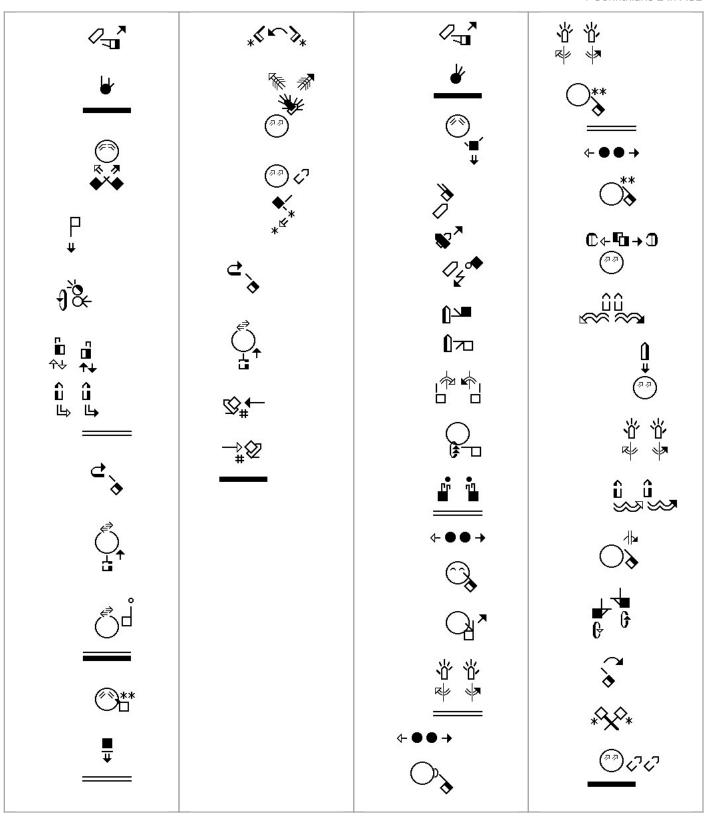


Verse 3. I came to you in weakness -- timid and trembling. Verse 4. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. Verse 5. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

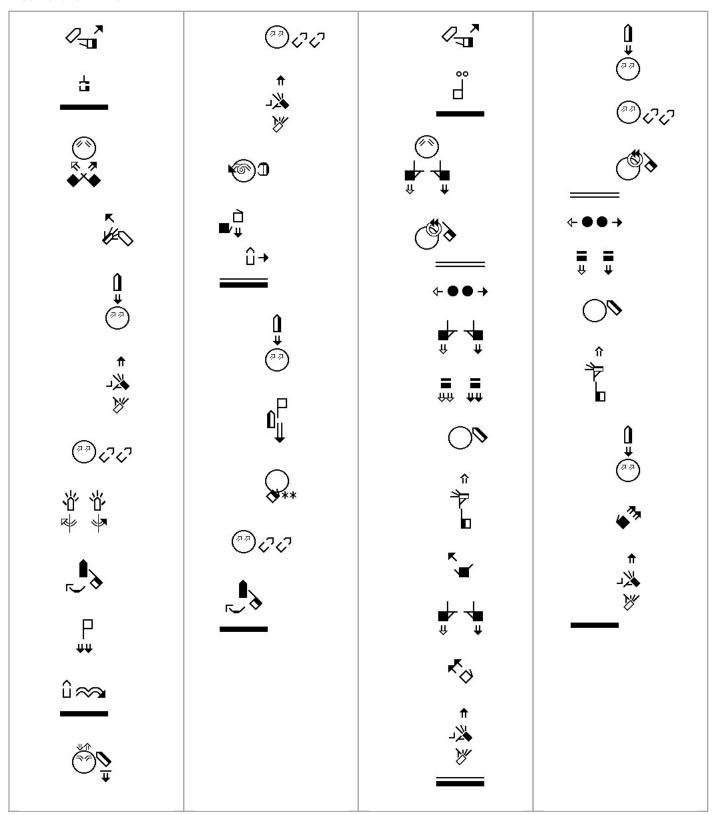
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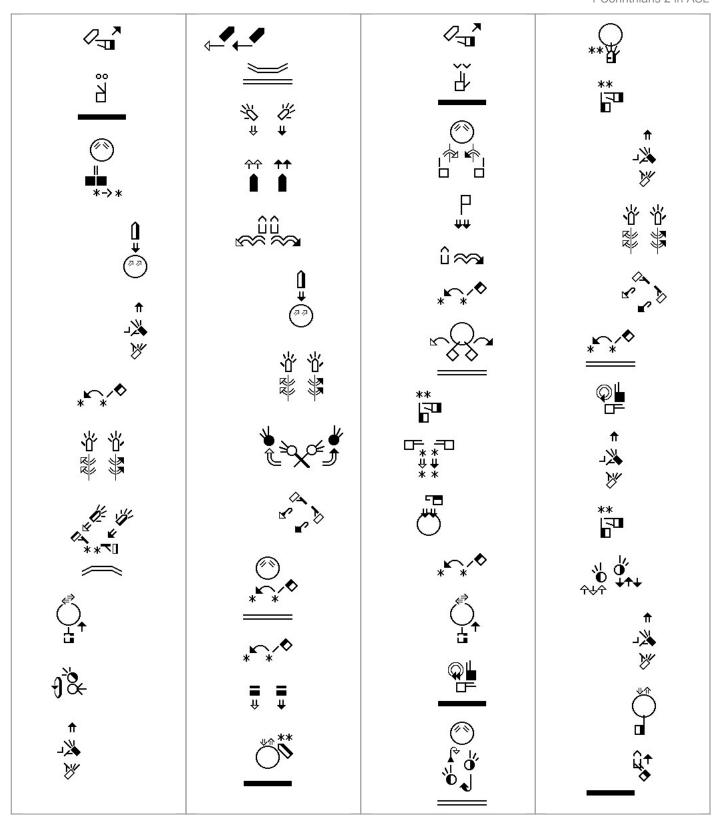
Verse 6. Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. Verse 7. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God -- his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.



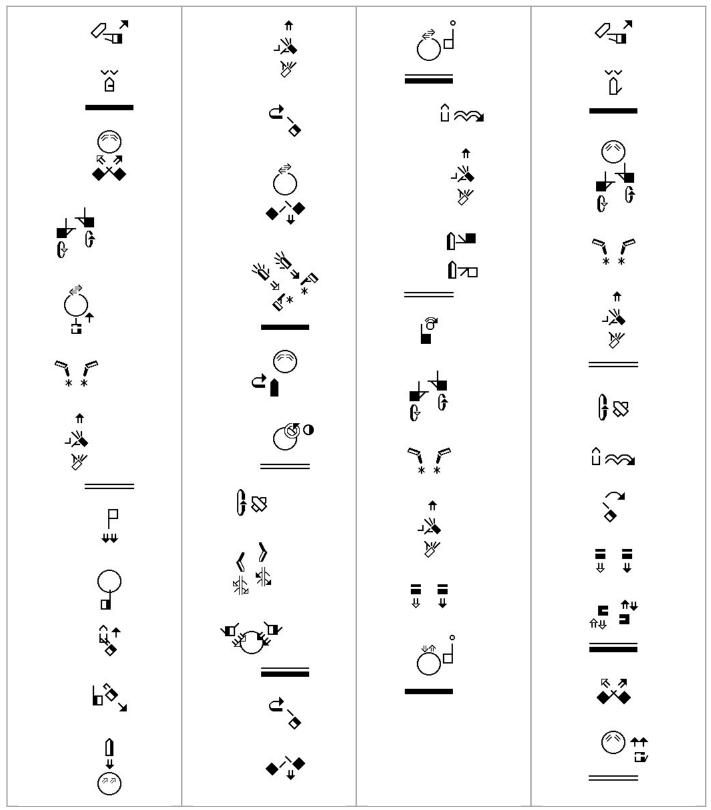
Verse 8. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. Verse 9. That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."



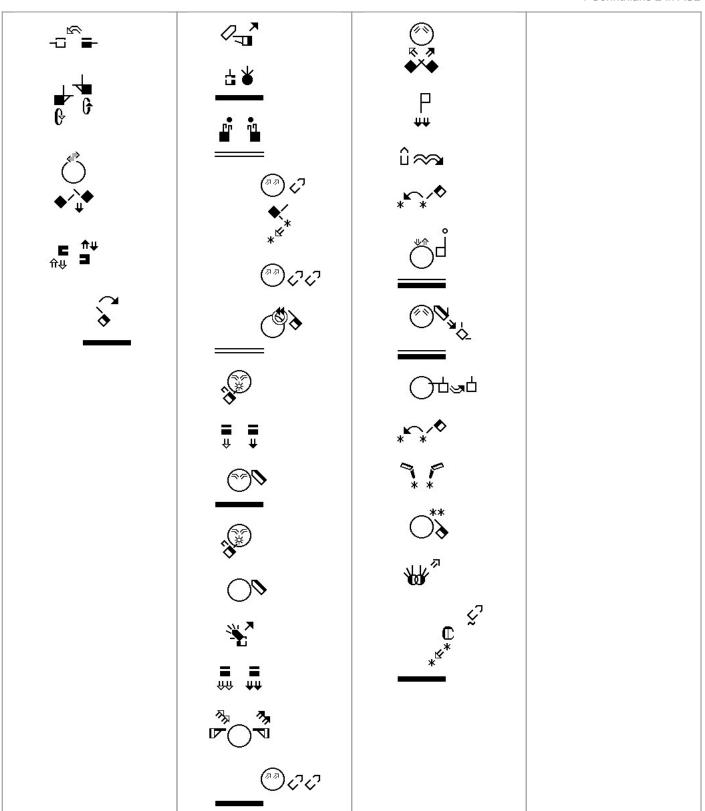
Verse 10. But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. Verse 11. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.



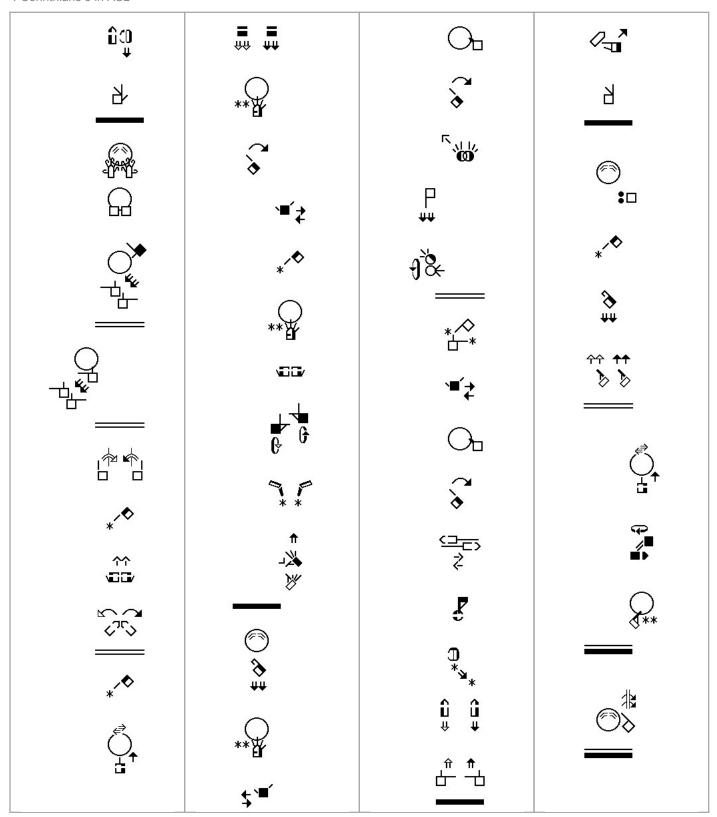
Verse 12. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. Verse 13. When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.



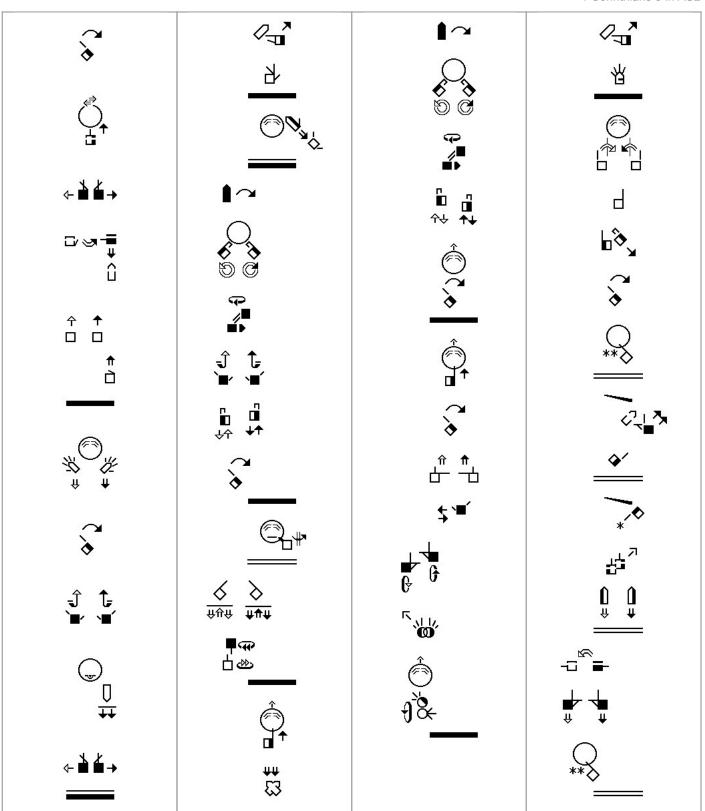
Verse 14. But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. Verse 15. Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves



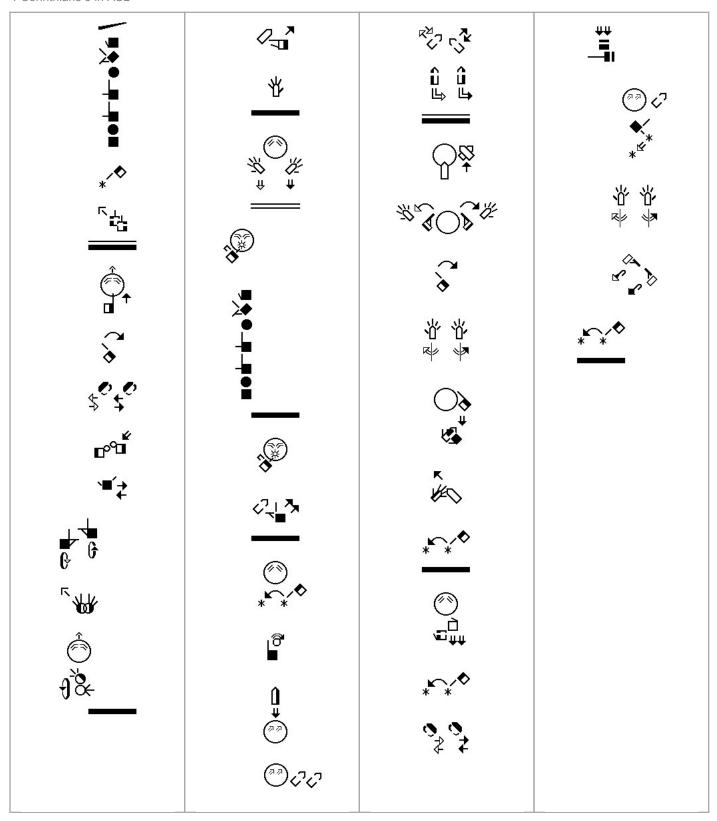
cannot be evaluated by others. Verse 16. For, "Who can know the LORD'S thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.



Chapter 3. Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. Verse 2. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, NLT

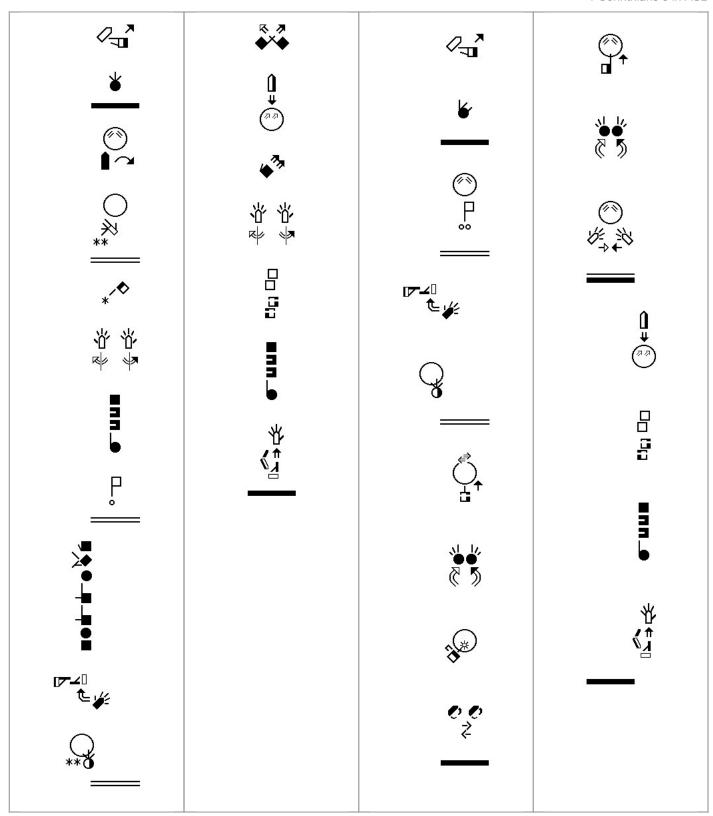


because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, Verse 3. for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? Verse 4. When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, NLT

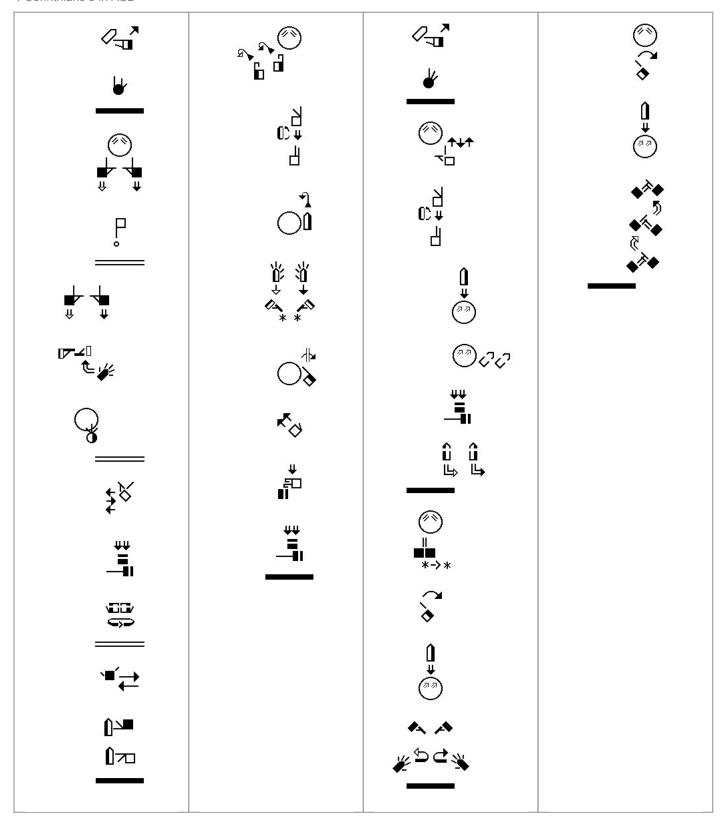


[&]quot;I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world? Verse 5. After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us.

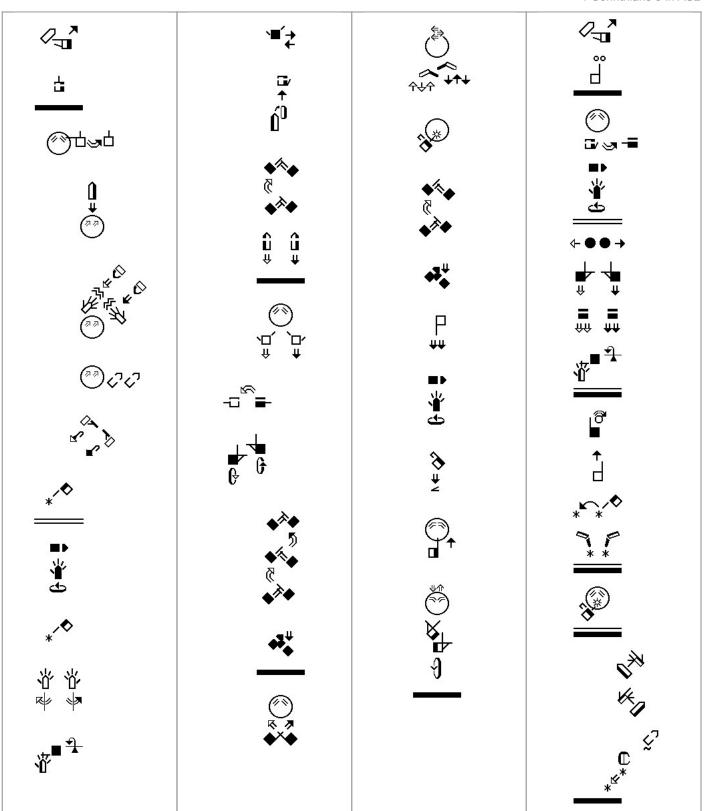
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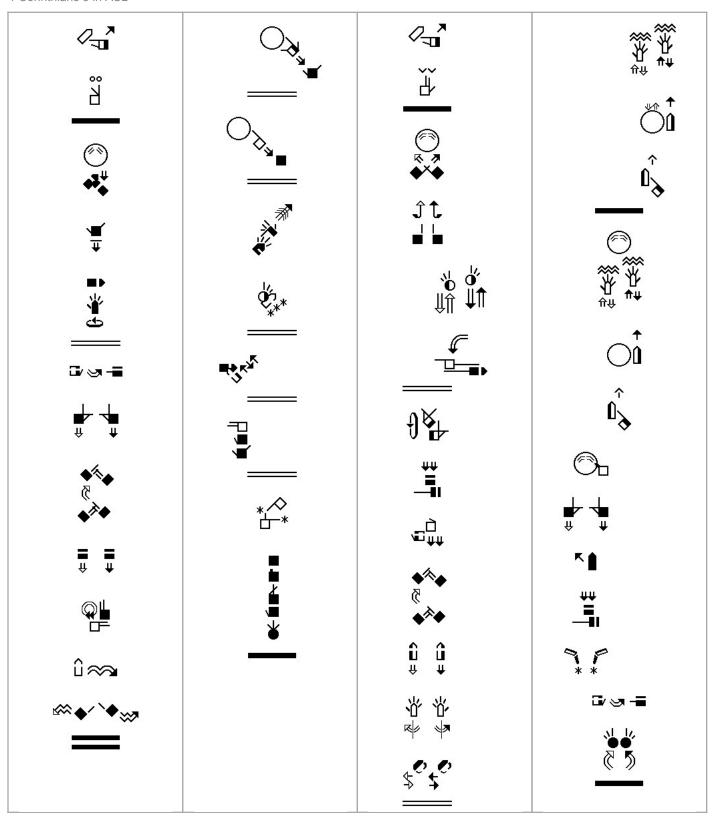
Verse 6. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. Verse 7. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.



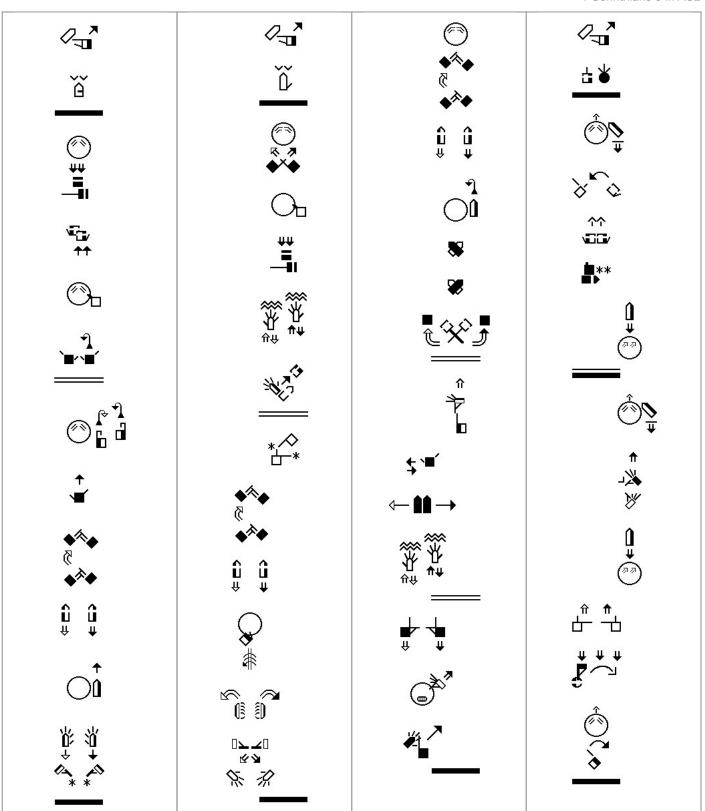
Verse 8. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. Verse 9. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.



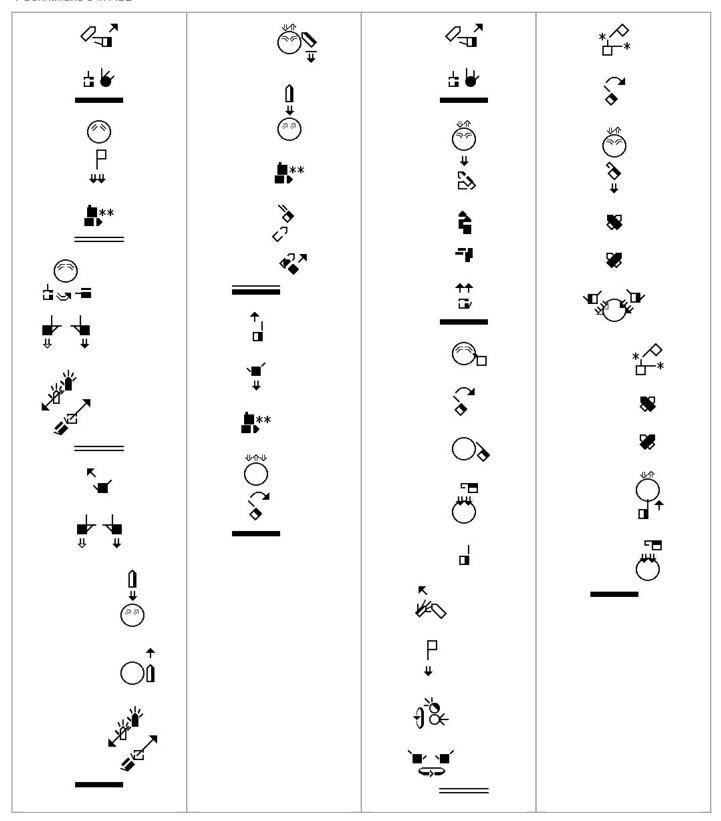
Verse 10. Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. Verse 11. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have -- Jesus Christ.



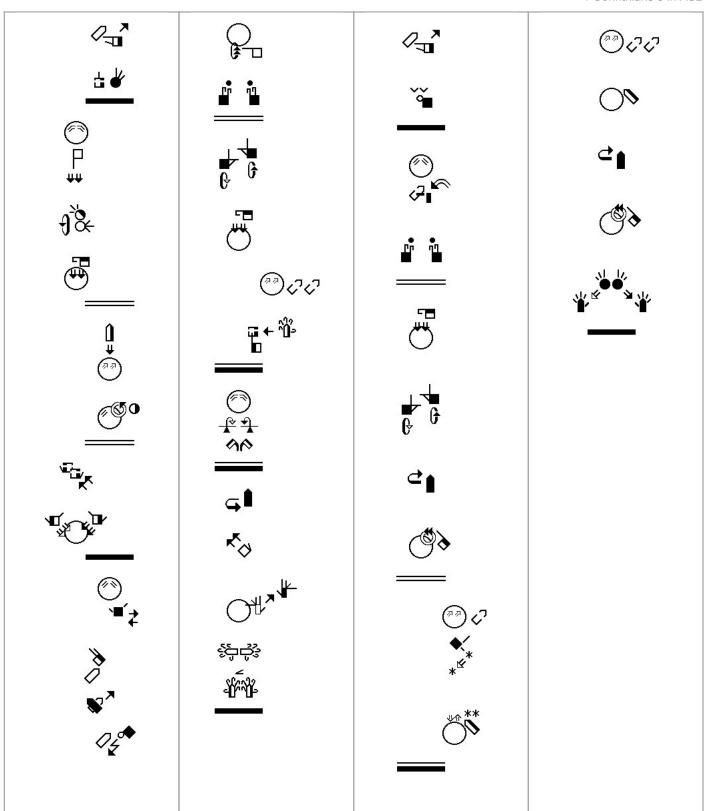
Verse 12. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials -- gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. Verse 13. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.



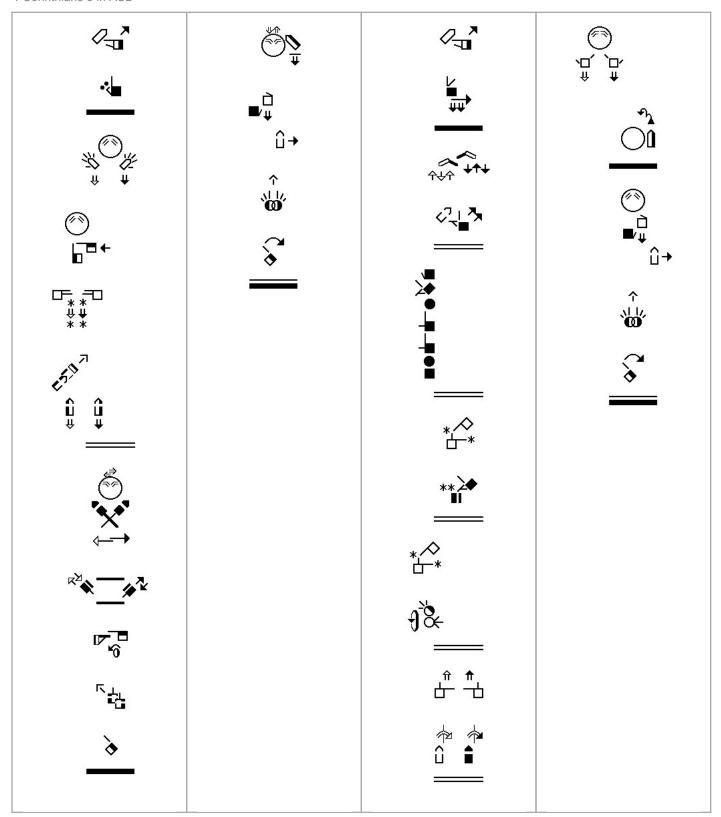
Verse 14. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. Verse 15. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. Verse 16. Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?



Verse 17. God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Verse 18. Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise.

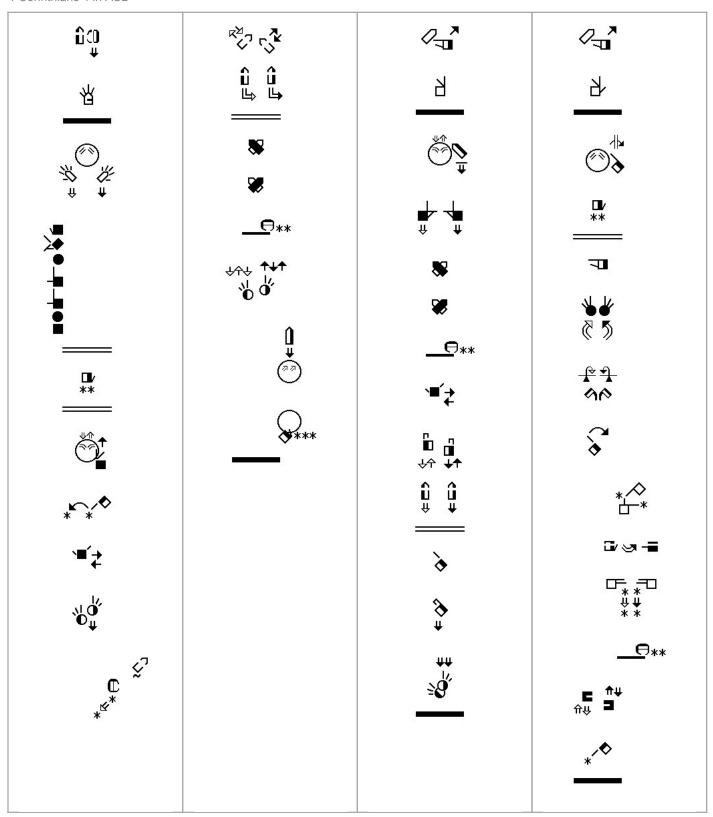


Verse 19. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say, "He traps the wise in the snare of their own cleverness." Verse 20. And again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise; he knows they are worthless."

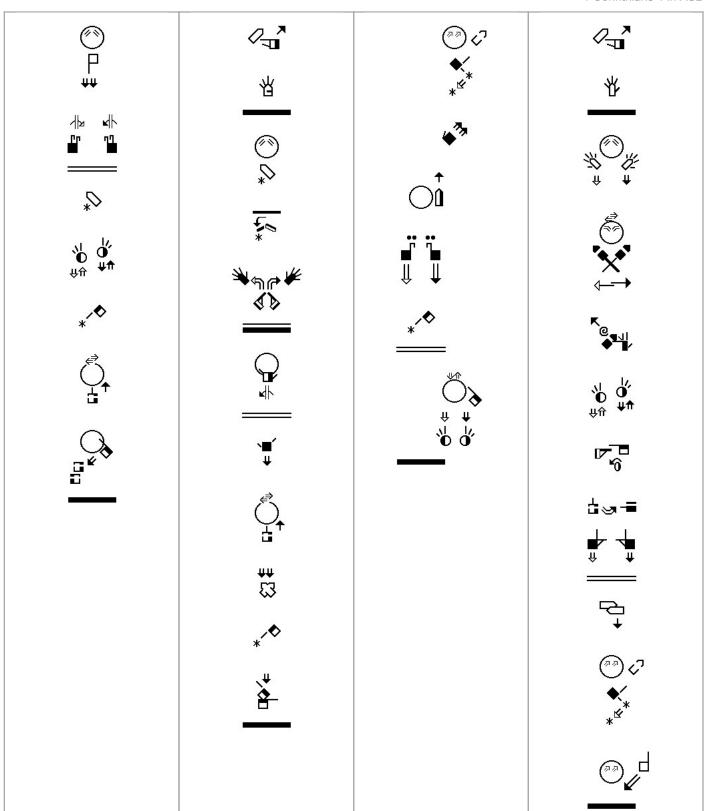


Verse 21. So don't boast about following a particular human leader. For everything belongs to you -- Verse 22. whether Paul or Apollos or Peter, or the world, or life and death, or the present and the future. Everything belongs to you,

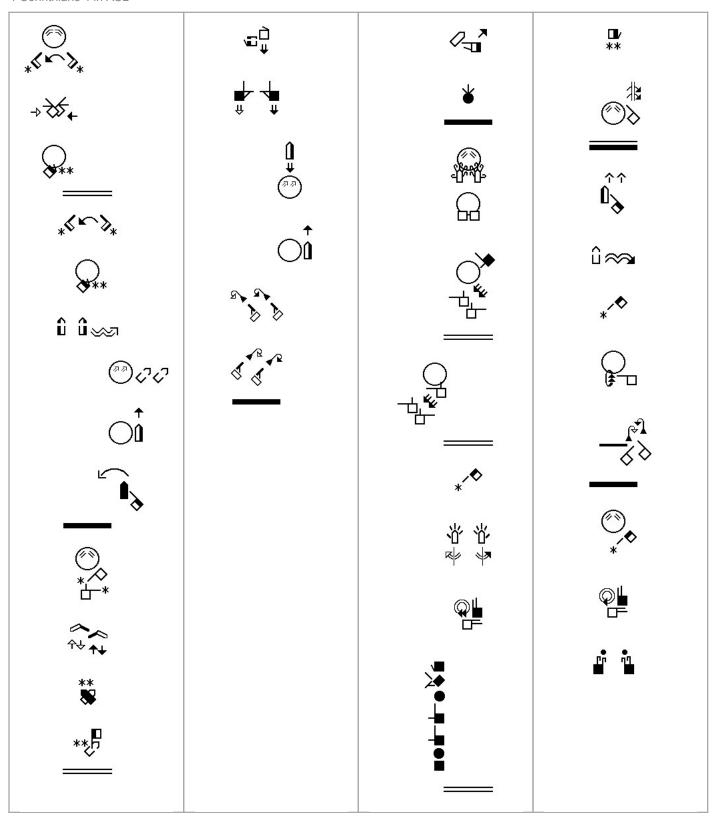
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Chapter 4. So look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ who have been put in charge of explaining God's mysteries. Verse 2. Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful. Verse 3. As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority.

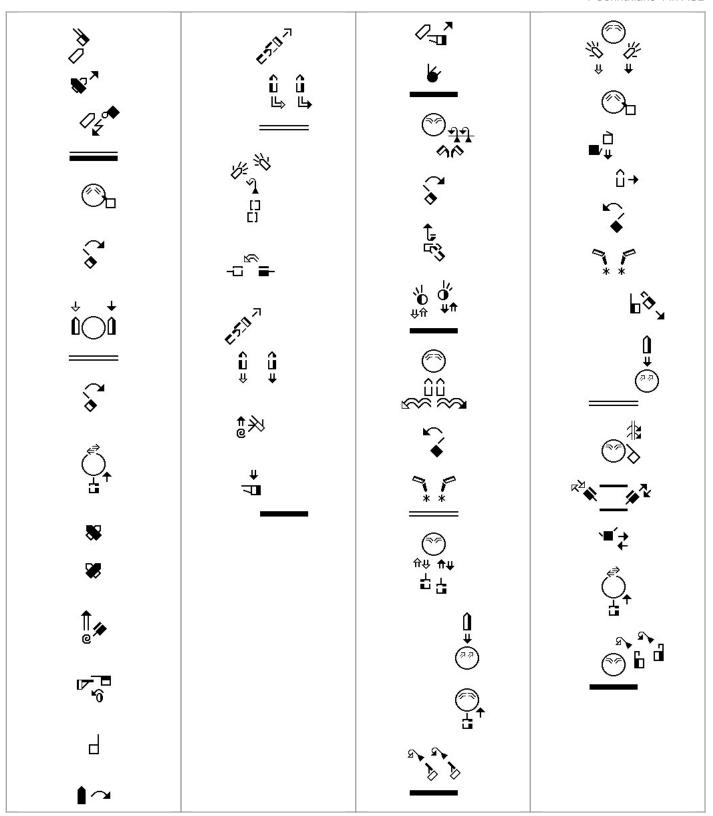


I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. Verse 4. My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide. Verse 5. So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time -- before the Lord returns. NLT



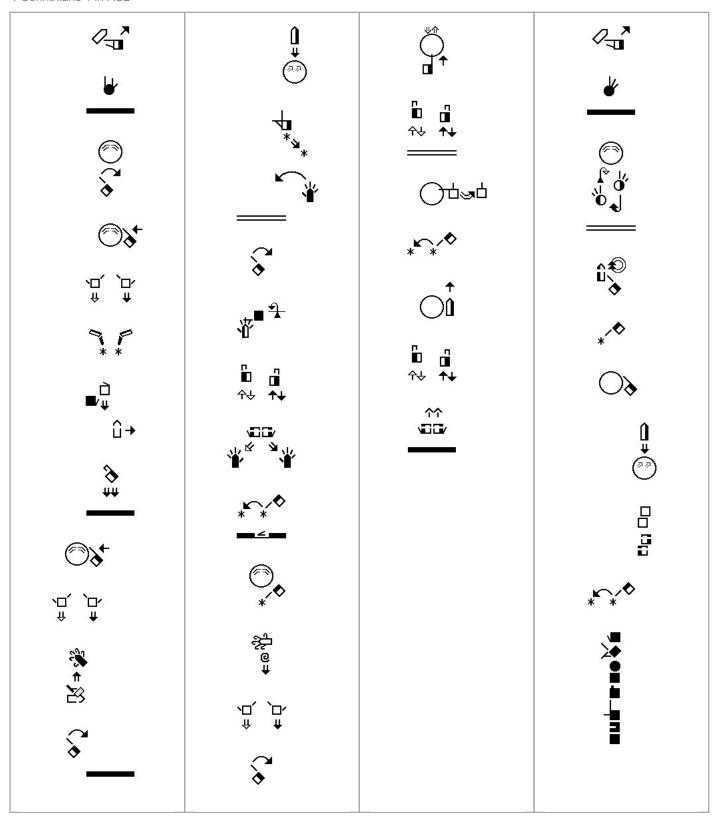
For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due. Verse 6. Dear brothers and sisters, I have used Apollos and myself to illustrate what I've been saying. If you pay attention to what I have quoted

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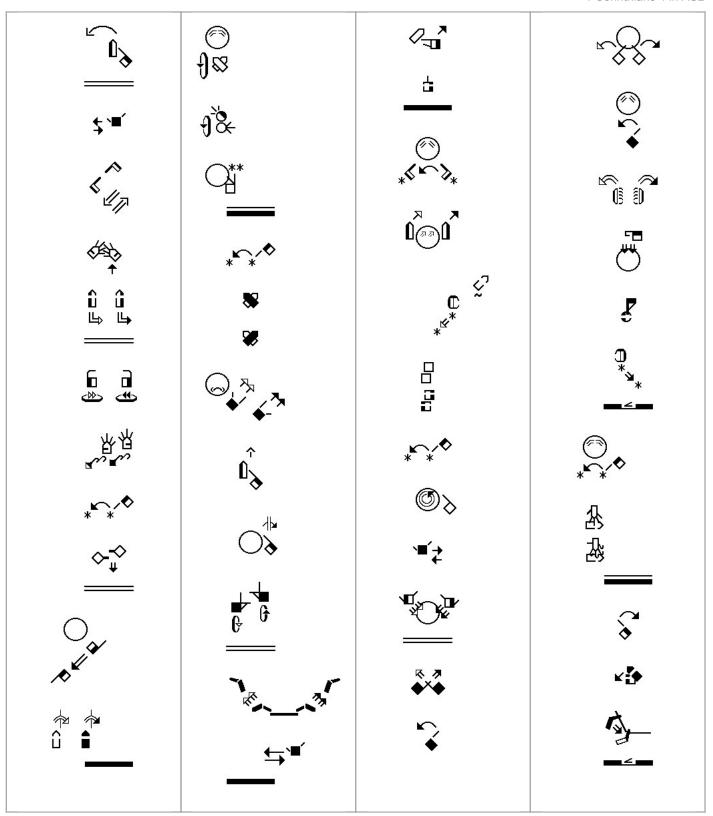
from the Scriptures, you won't be proud of one of your leaders at the expense of another. Verse 7. For what gives you the right to make such a judgment? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?

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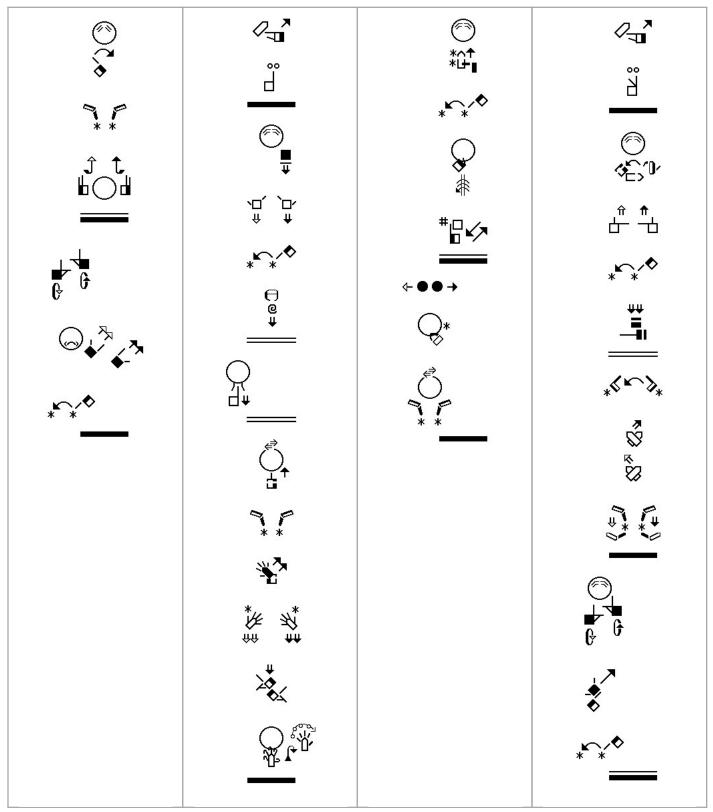


Verse 8. You think you already have everything you need. You think you are already rich. You have begun to reign in God's kingdom without us! I wish you really were reigning already, for then we would be reigning with you. Verse 9. Instead, I sometimes think God has put us apostles

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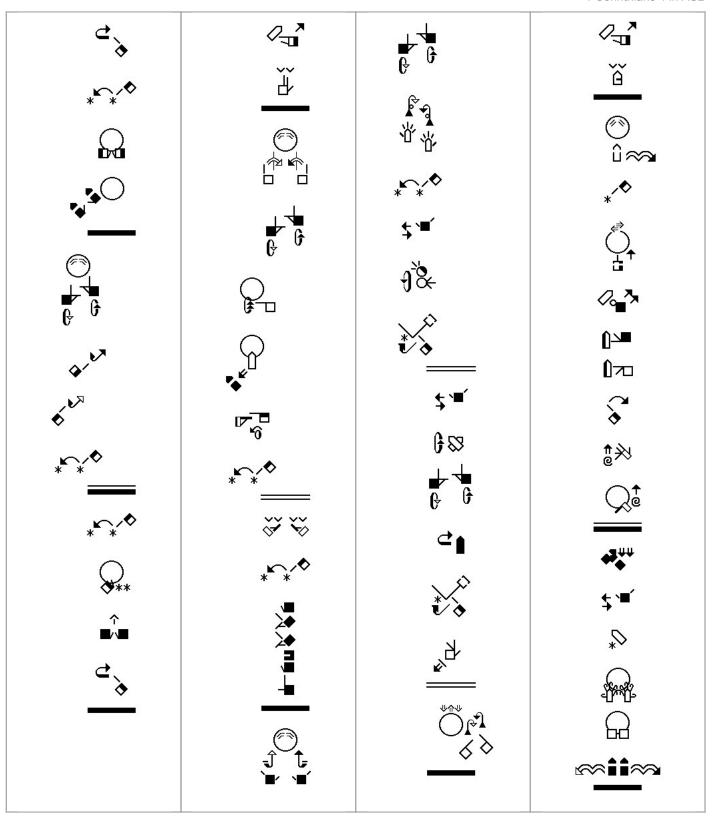


on display, like prisoners of war at the end of a victor's parade, condemned to die. We have become a spectacle to the entire world -- to people and angels alike. Verse 10. Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools, but you claim to be so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are so powerful!

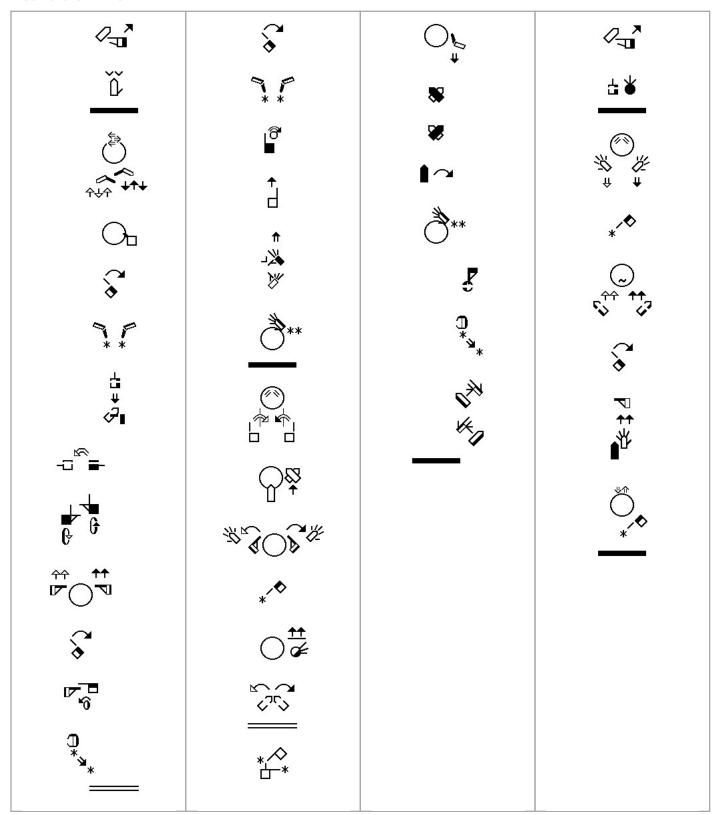


You are honored, but we are ridiculed. Verse 11. Even now we go hungry and thirsty, and we don't have enough clothes to keep warm. We are often beaten and have no home. Verse 12. We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us.

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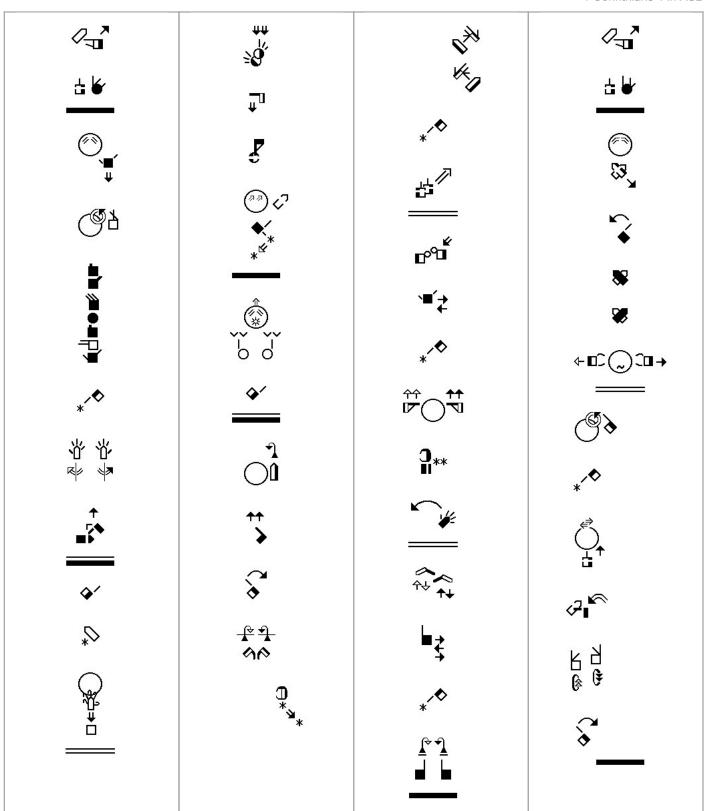


We are patient with those who abuse us. Verse 13. We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash -- right up to the present moment. Verse 14. I am not writing these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children.

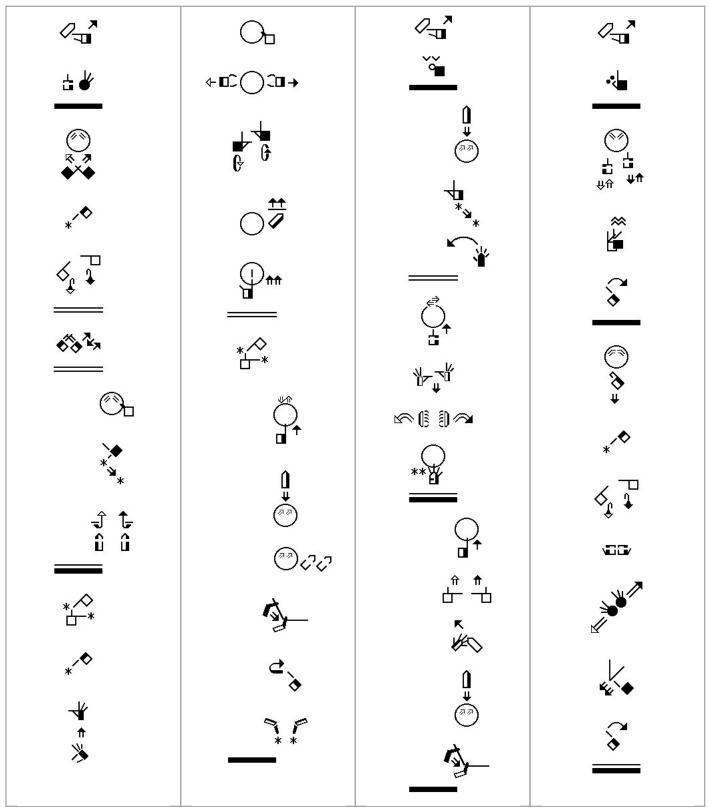


Verse 15. For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. Verse 16. So I urge you to imitate me.

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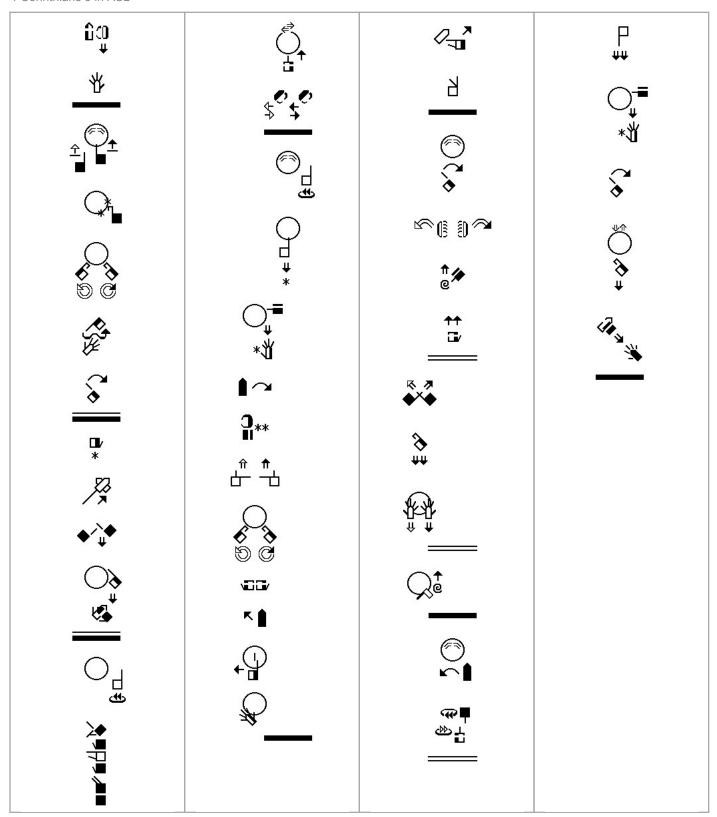
Verse 17. That's why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus, just as I teach in all the churches wherever I go. Verse 18. Some of you have become arrogant, thinking I will not visit you again. NLT



Verse 19. But I will come -- and soon -- if the Lord lets me, and then I'll find out whether these arrogant people just give pretentious speeches or whether they really have God's power. Verse 20. For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power. Verse 21. Which do you choose? Should I come with a rod to punish you, NLT

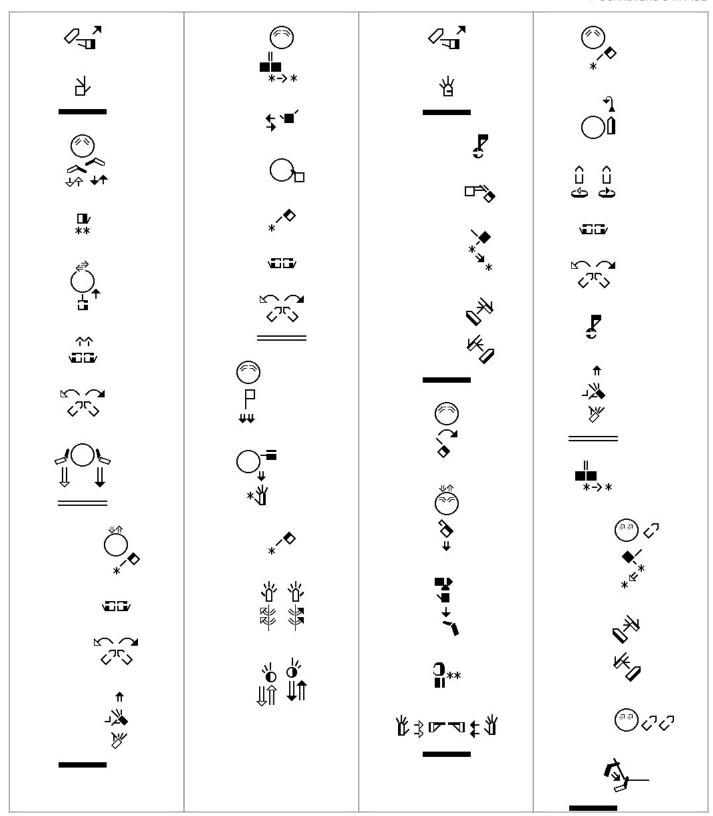
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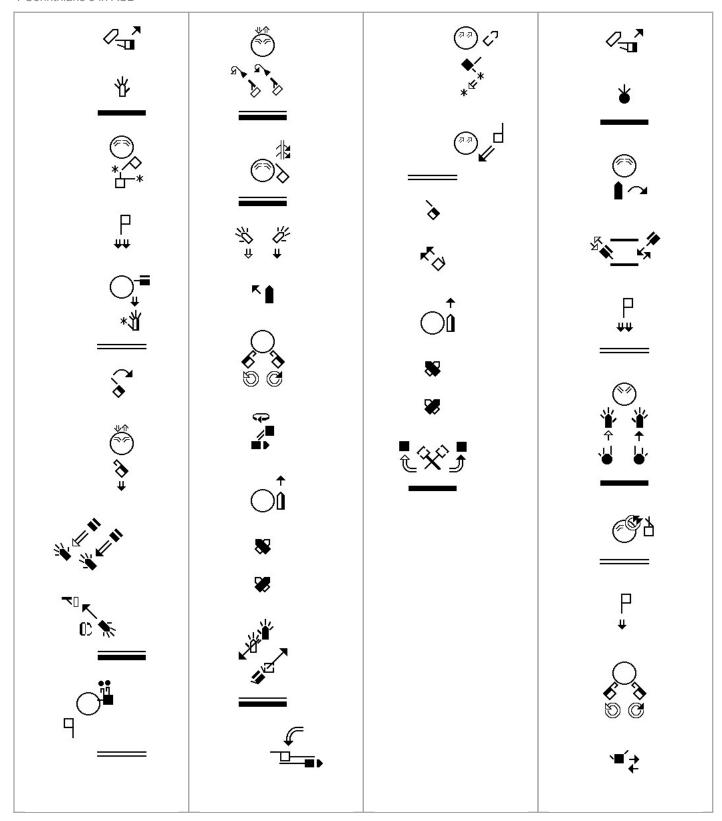


Chapter 5. I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you --something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother. Verse 2. You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

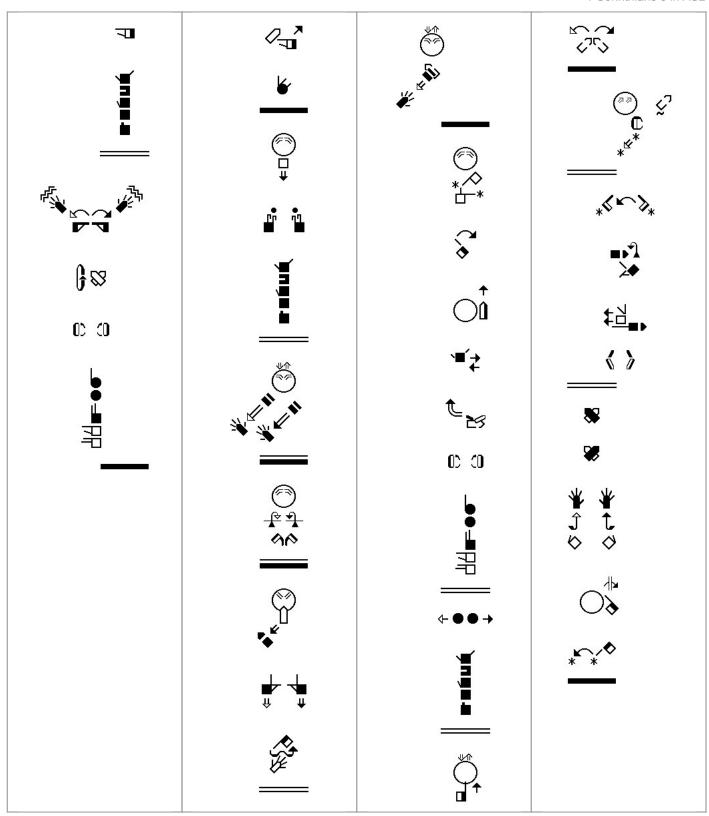
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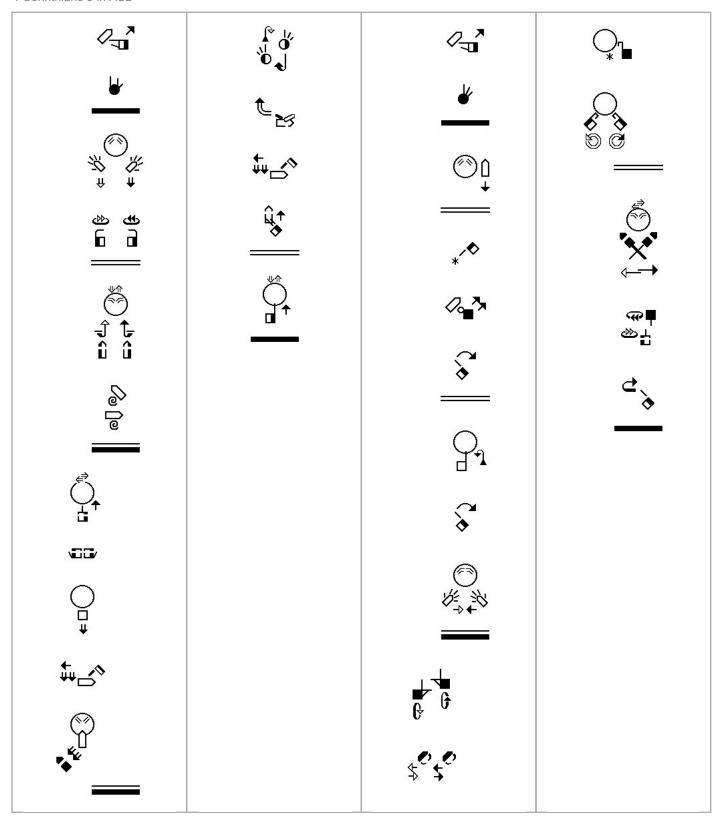
Verse 3. Even though I am not with you in person, I am with you in the Spirit. And as though I were there, I have already passed judgment on this man Verse 4. in the name of the Lord Jesus. You must call a meeting of the church. I will be present with you in spirit, and so will the power of our Lord Jesus.



Verse 5. Then you must throw this man out and hand him over to Satan so that his sinful nature will be destroyed and he himself will be saved on the day the Lord returns. Verse 6. Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like NLT

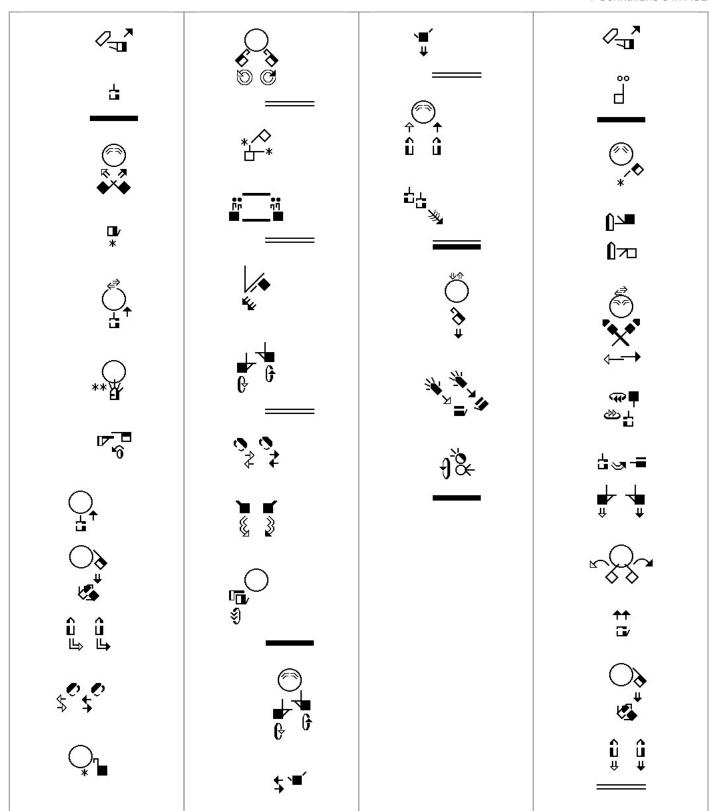


a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? Verse 7. Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

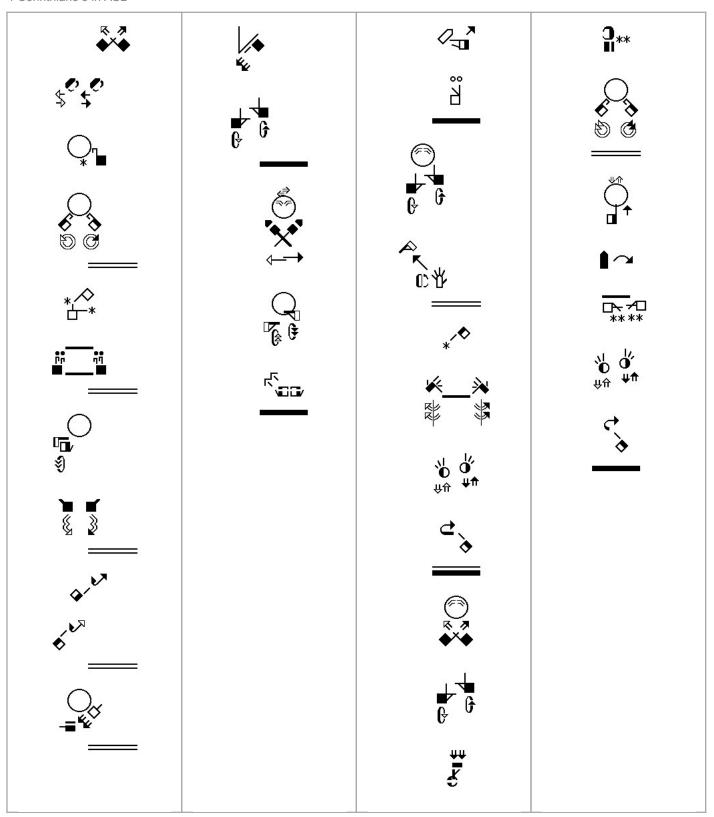


Verse 8. So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth. Verse 9. When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin.

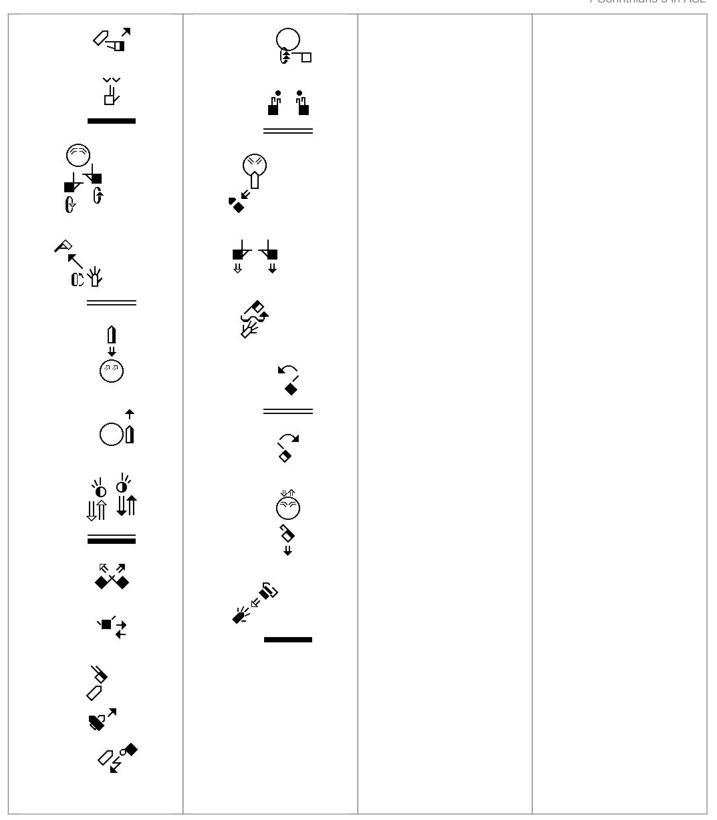
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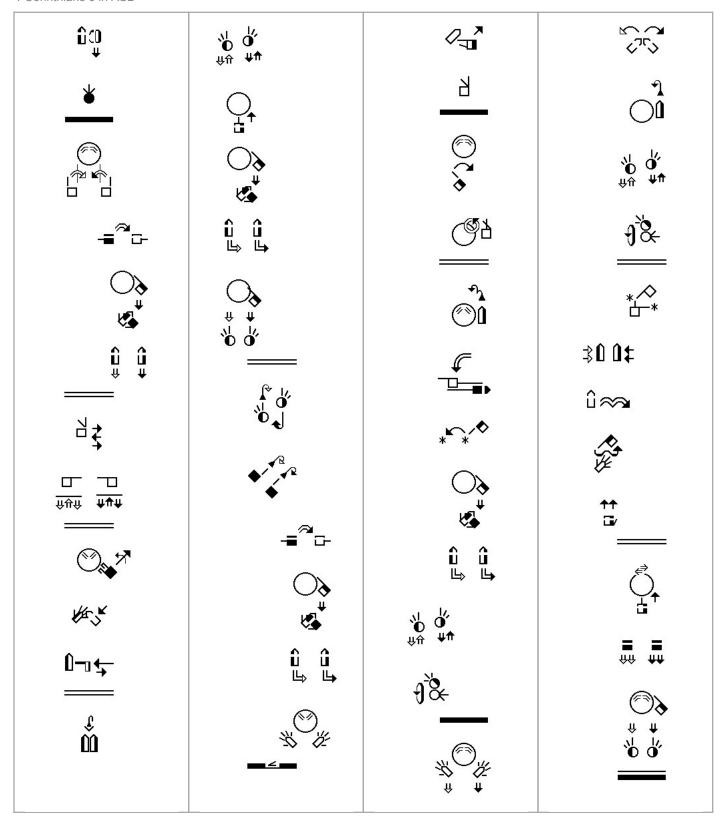
Verse 10. But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. Verse 11. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer



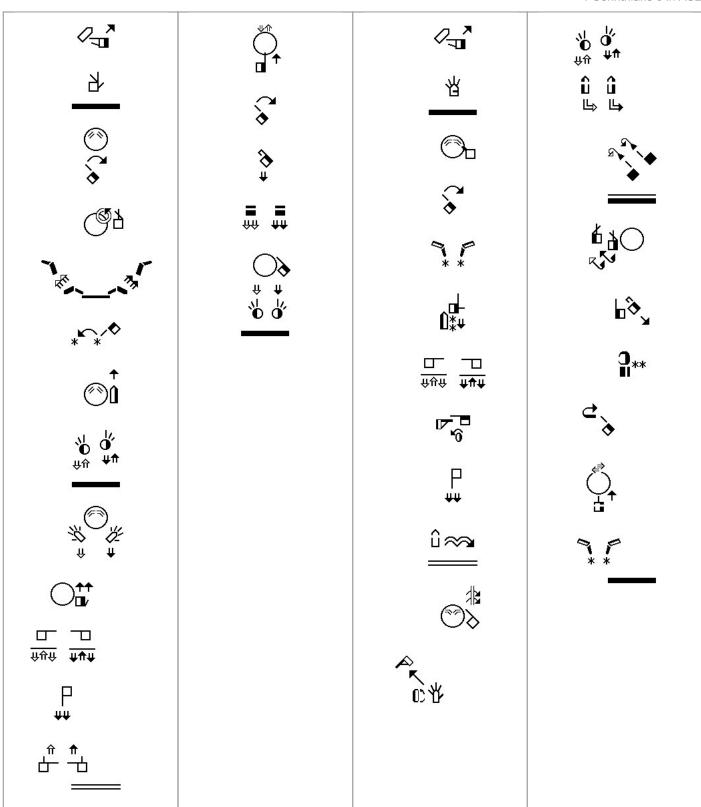
yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. Verse 12. It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning.



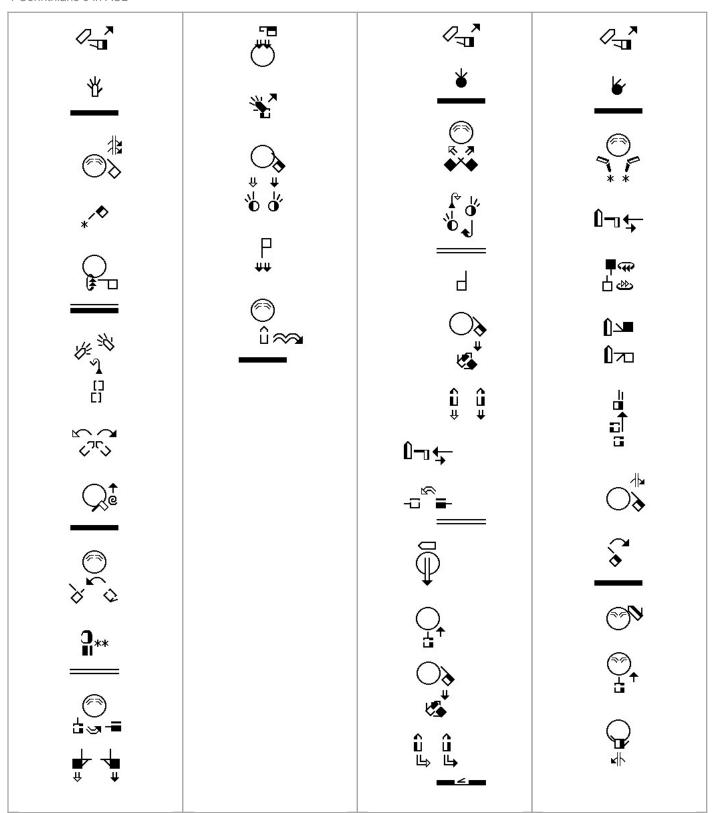
Verse 13. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you." $$\operatorname{\textsc{NLT}}$$



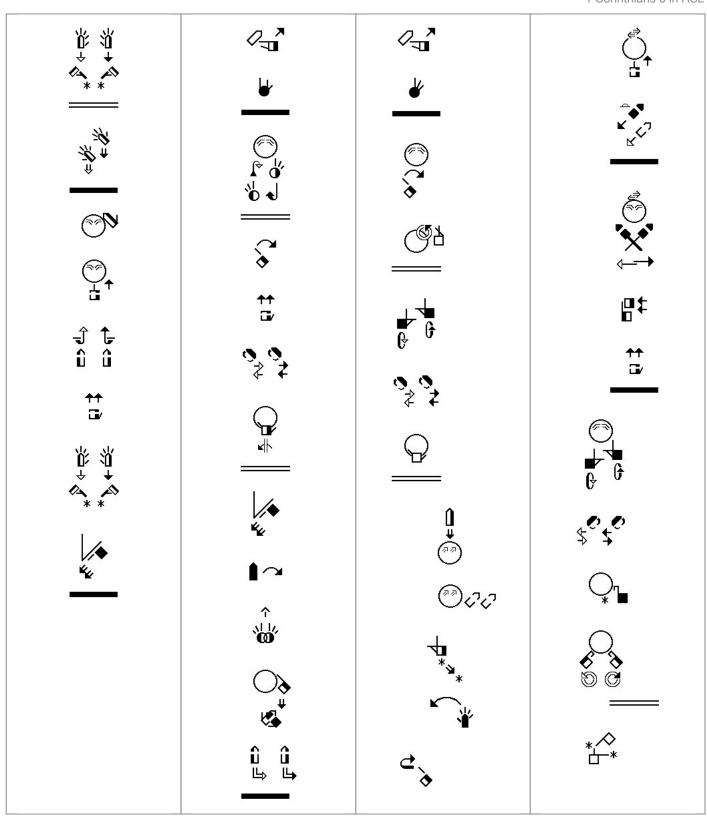
Chapter 6. When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! Verse 2. Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves?



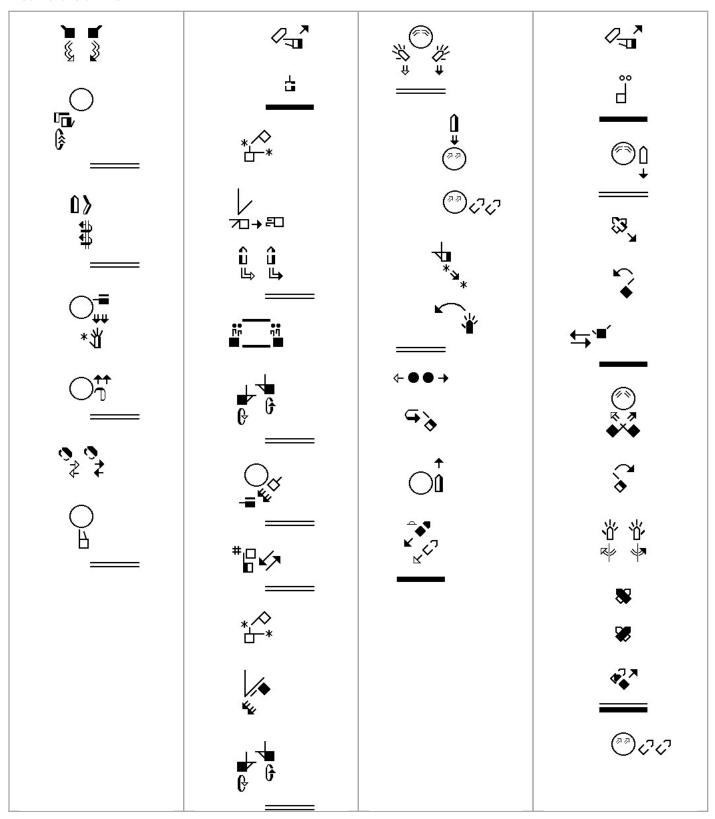
Verse 3. Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. Verse 4. If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church?



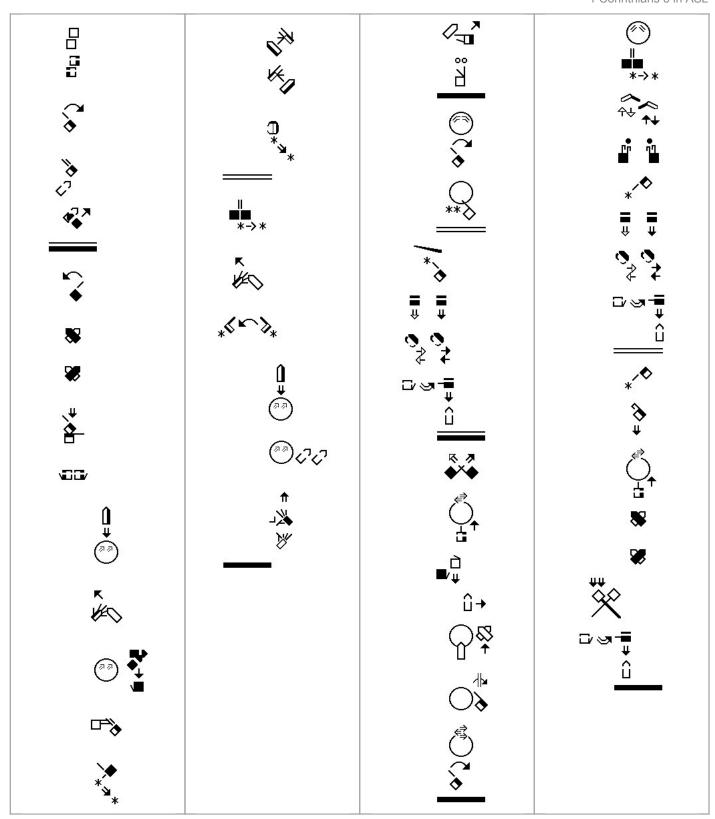
Verse 5. I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues? Verse 6. But instead, one believer sues another -- right in front of unbelievers! Verse 7. Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not



just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? Verse 8. Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers. Verse 9. Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or NLT

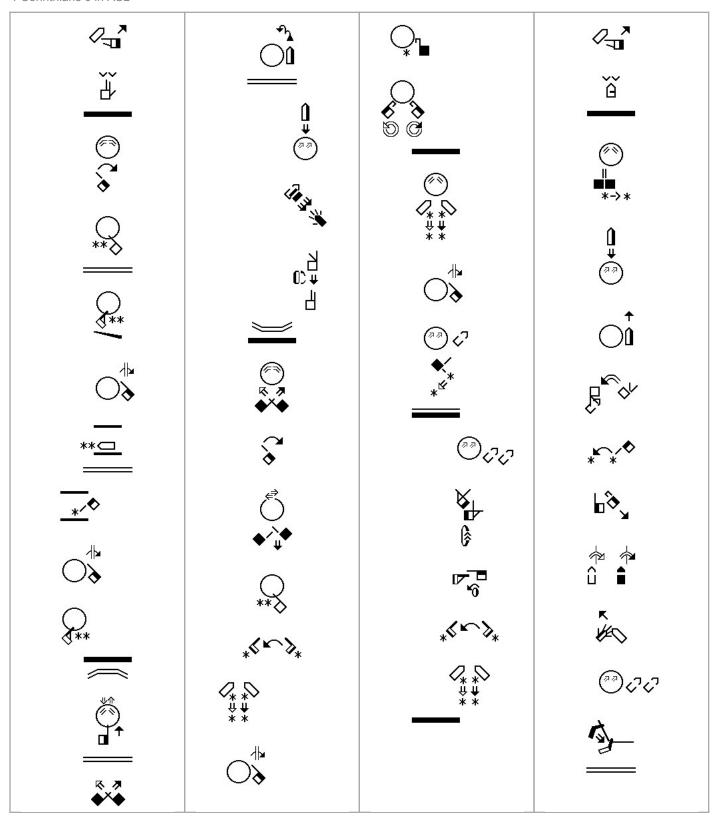


who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, Verse 10. or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people -- none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Verse 11. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed;

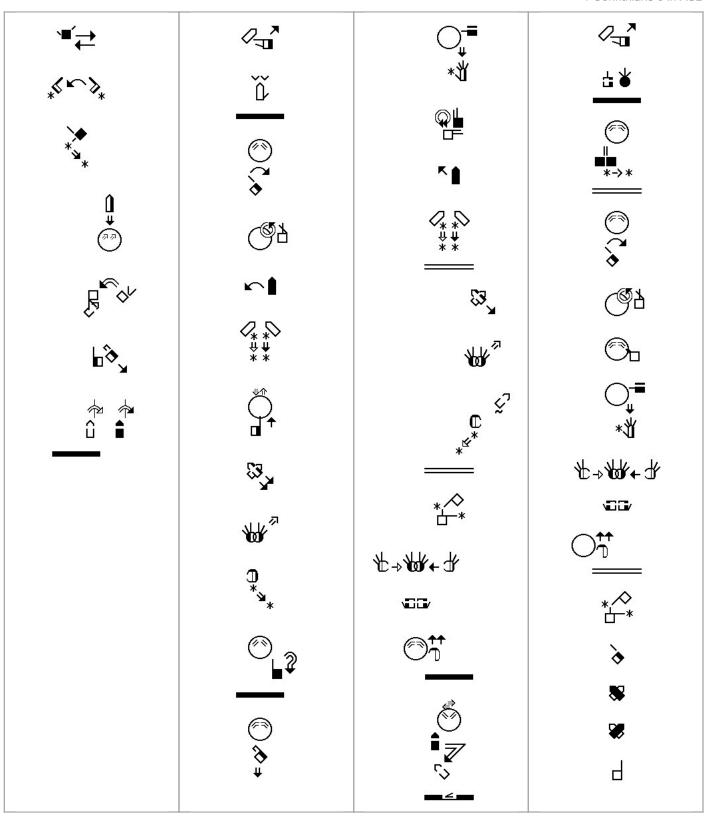


you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Verse 12. You say, "I am allowed to do anything: -- but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything.

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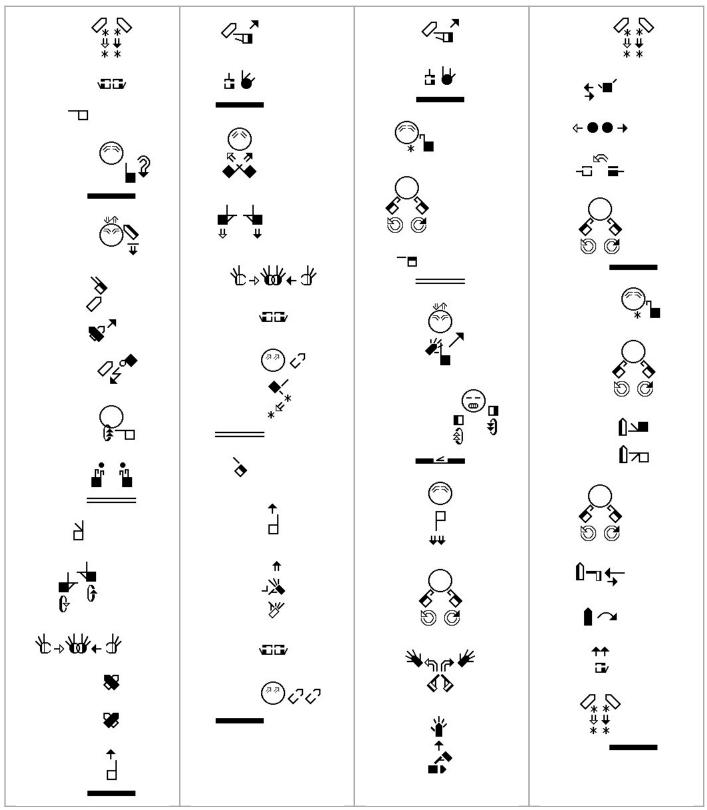


Verse 13. You say, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food." (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. Verse 14. And God will raise us from the dead by his power,



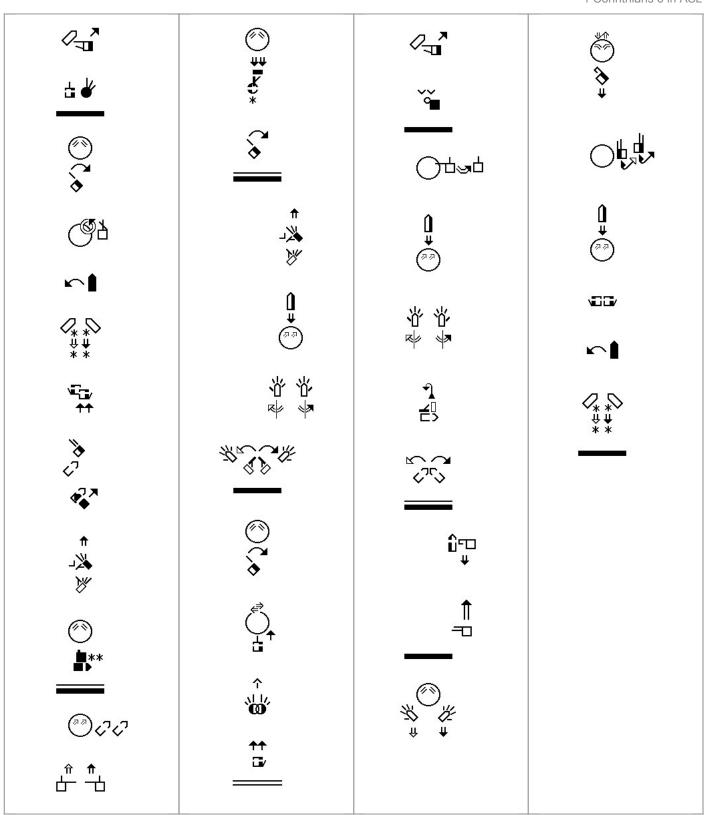
just as he raised our Lord from the dead. Verse 15. Don't your realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! Verse 16. And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one

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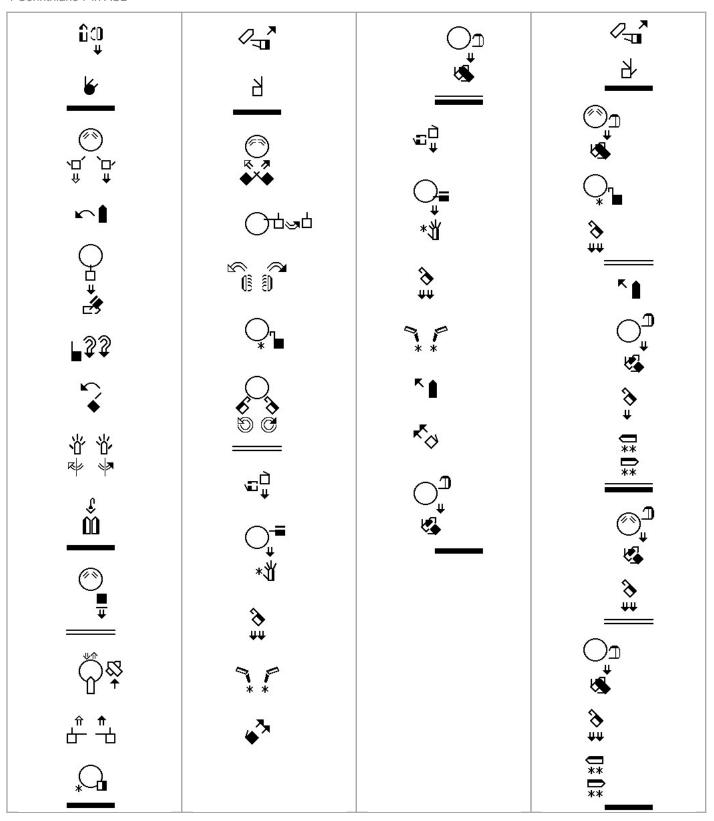


body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." Verse 17. But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Verse 18. Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

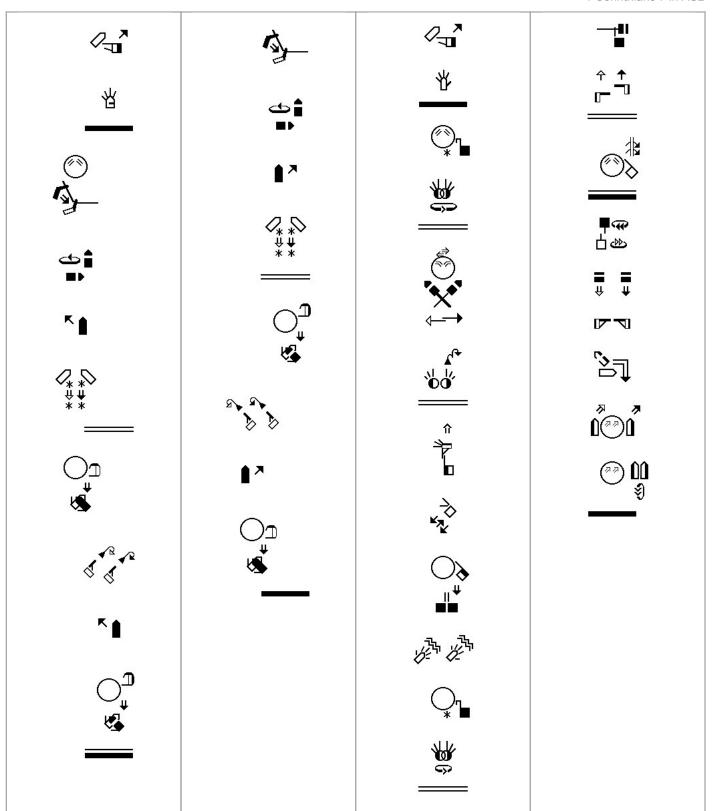
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Verse 19. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, Verse 20. for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

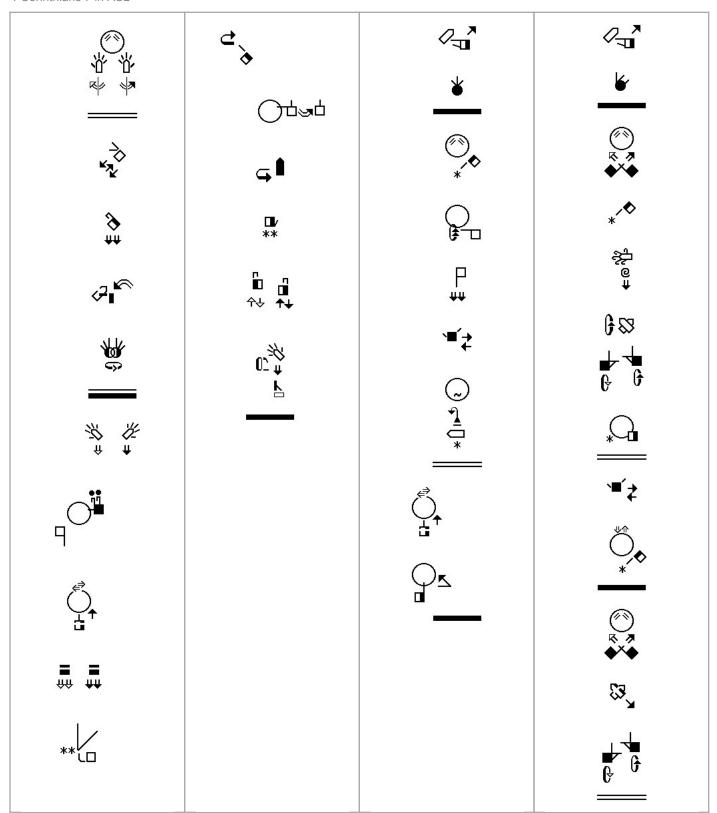


Chapter 7. Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to live a celibate life. Verse 2. But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. Verse 3. The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs.

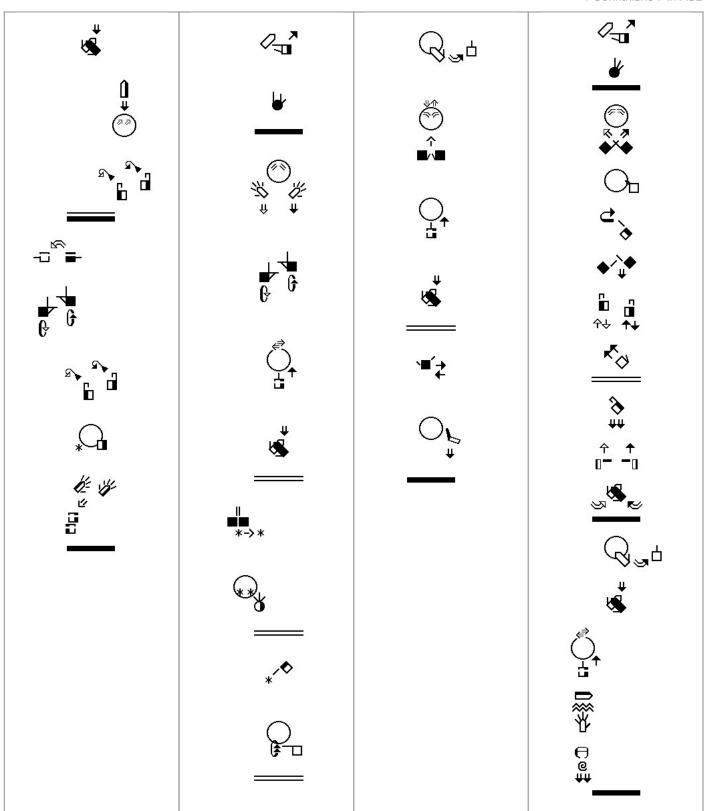


Verse 4. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife. Verse 5. Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer.

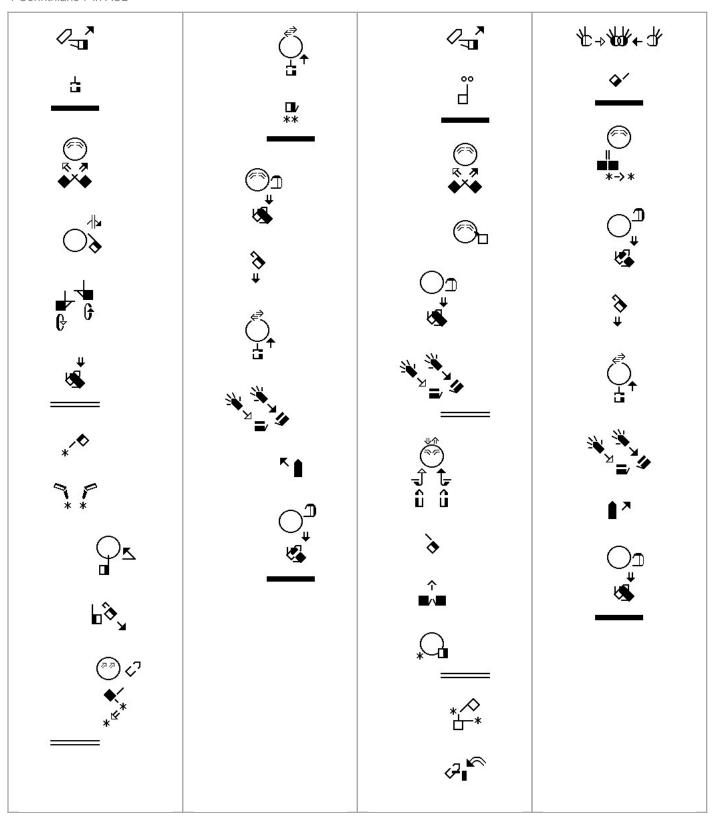
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Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control. Verse 6. I say this as a concession, not as a command. Verse 7. But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. But God gives to some

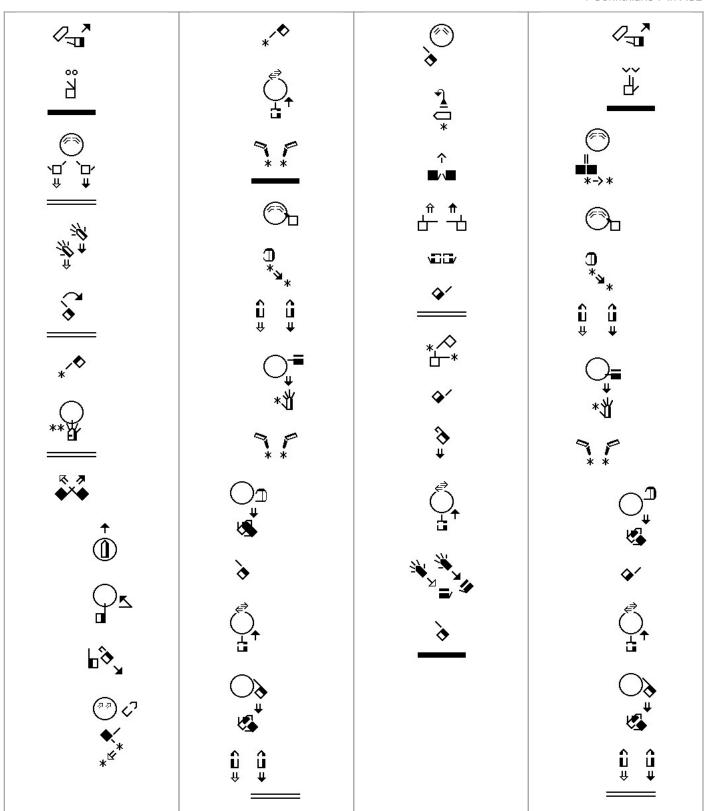


the gift of marriage, and to others the gift of singleness. Verse 8. So I say to those who aren't married and to widows -- it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am. Verse 9. But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust.



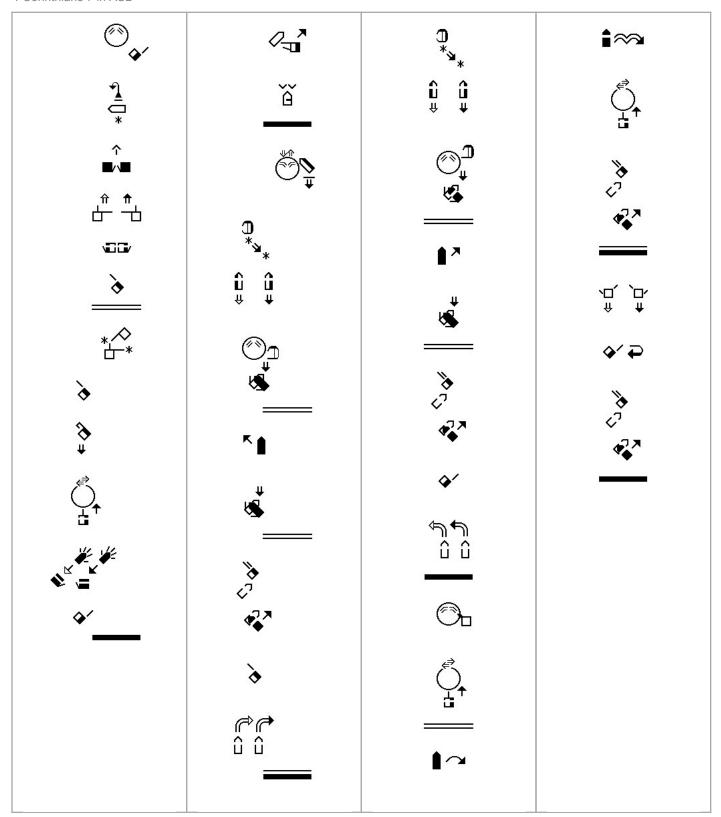
Verse 10. But for those who are married, I have a command that comes not from me, but from the Lord. A wife must not leave her husband. Verse 11. But if she does leave him, let her remain single or else be reconciled to him. And the husband must not leave his wife.

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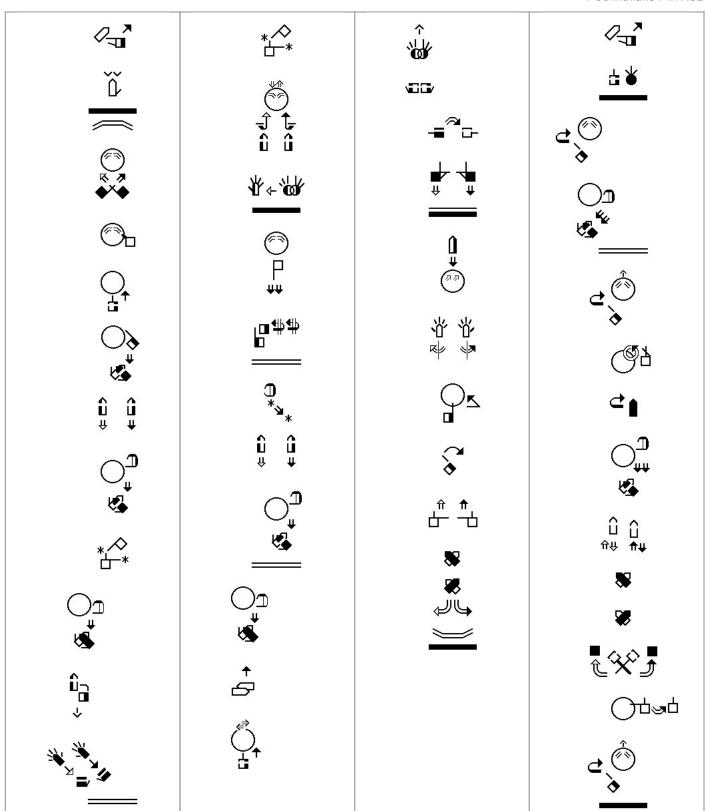


Verse 12. Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a Christian man has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. Verse 13. And if a Christian woman has a husband who is not a believer

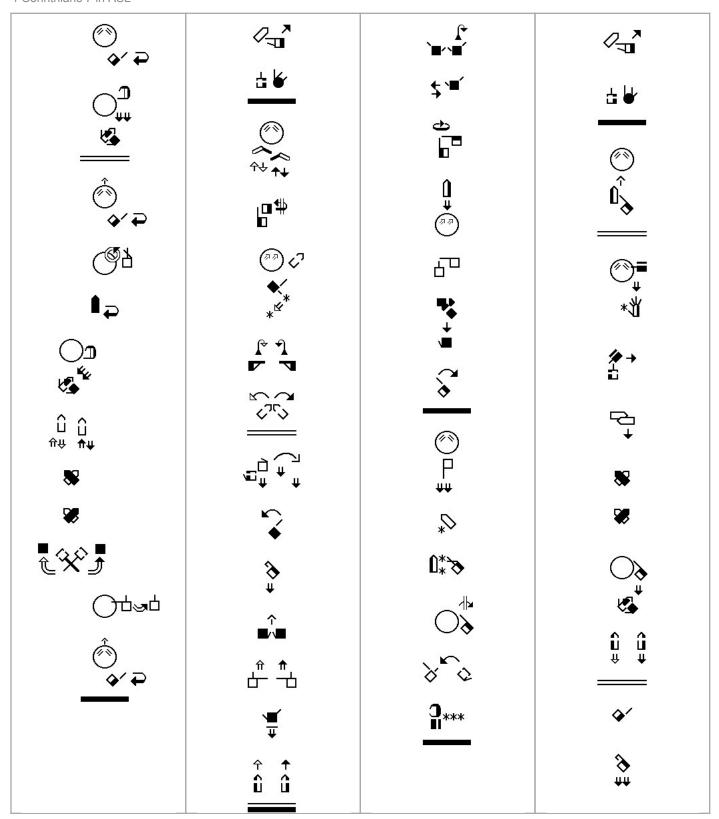
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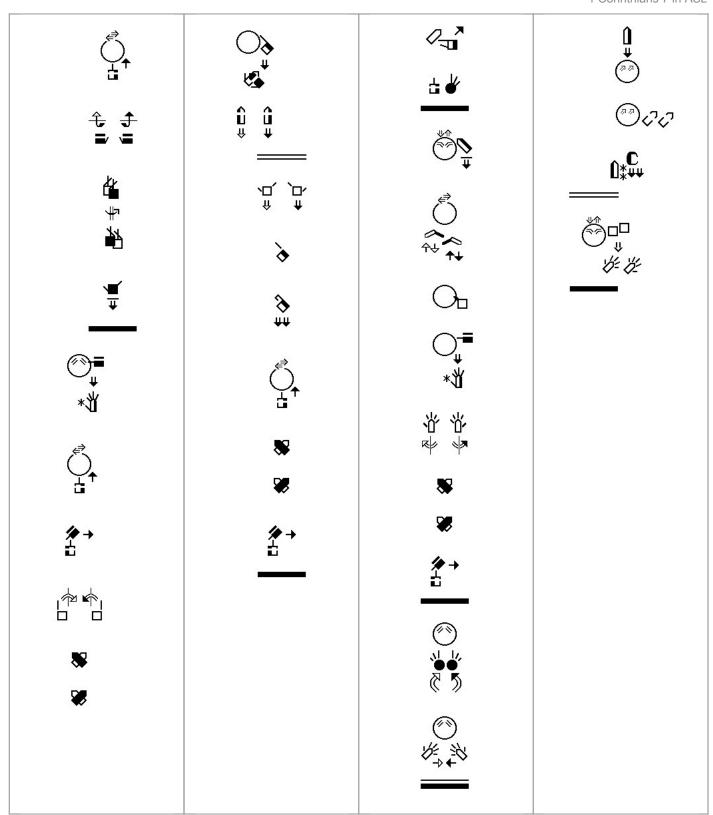
and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. Verse 14. For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy. NLT



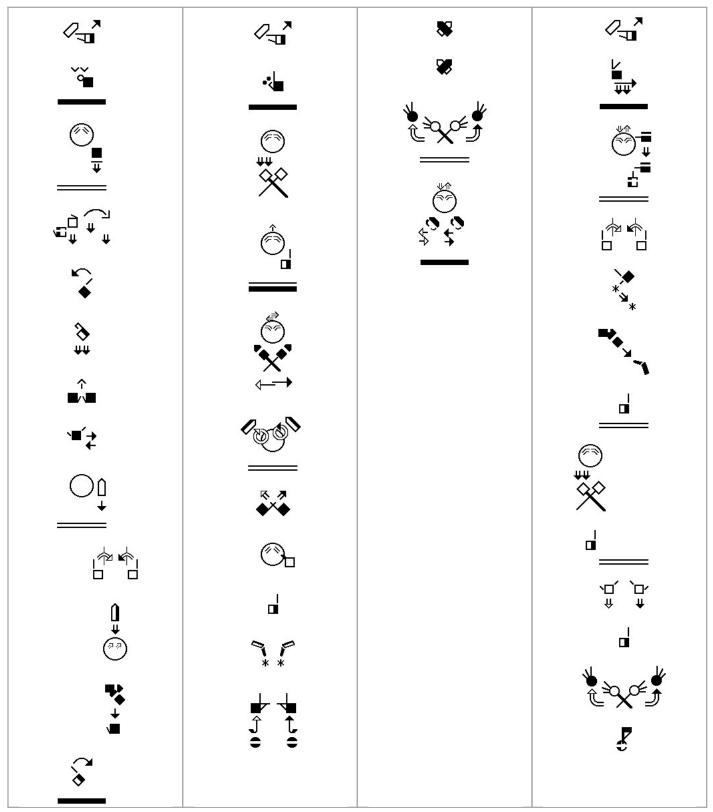
Verse 15. (But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the Christian husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.) Verse 16. Don't you wives realize that your husbands might be saved because of you?



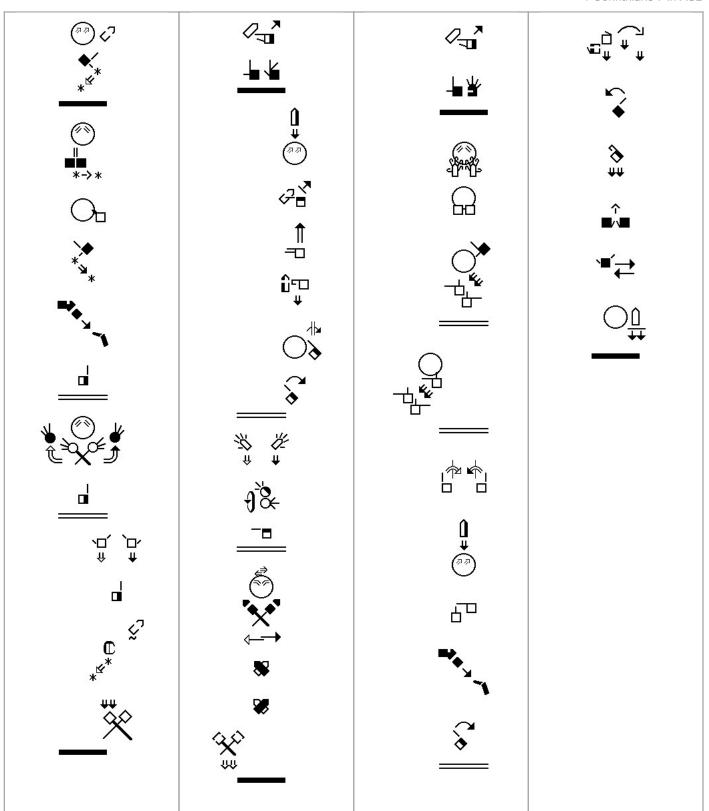
And don't you husbands realize that your wives might be saved because of you? Verse 17. Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you. This is my rule for all the churches. Verse 18. For instance, a man who was circumcised before he became a believer should



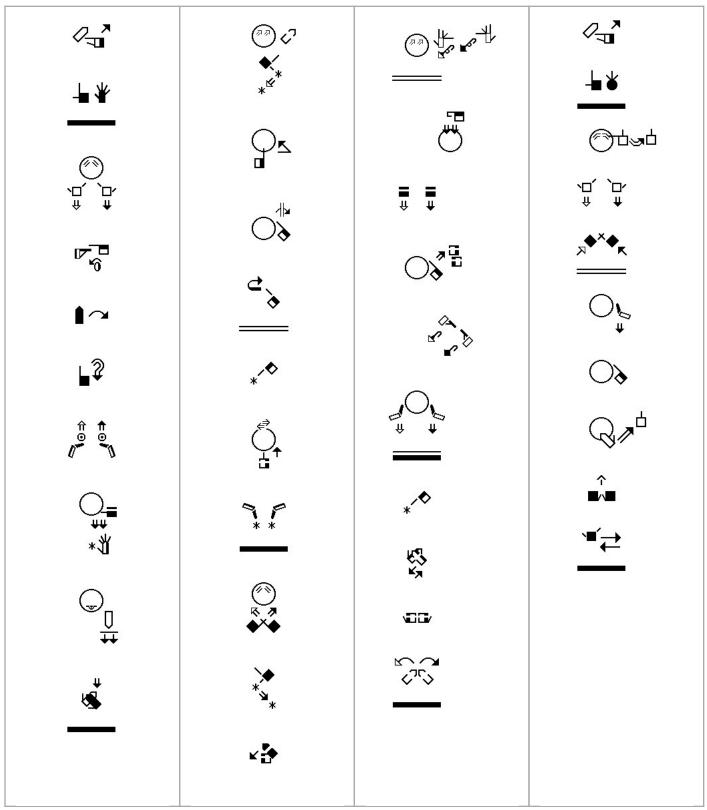
not try to reverse it. And the man who was uncircumcised when he became a believer should not be circumcised now. Verse 19. For it makes no difference whether or not a man has been circumcised. The important thing is to keep God's commandments.



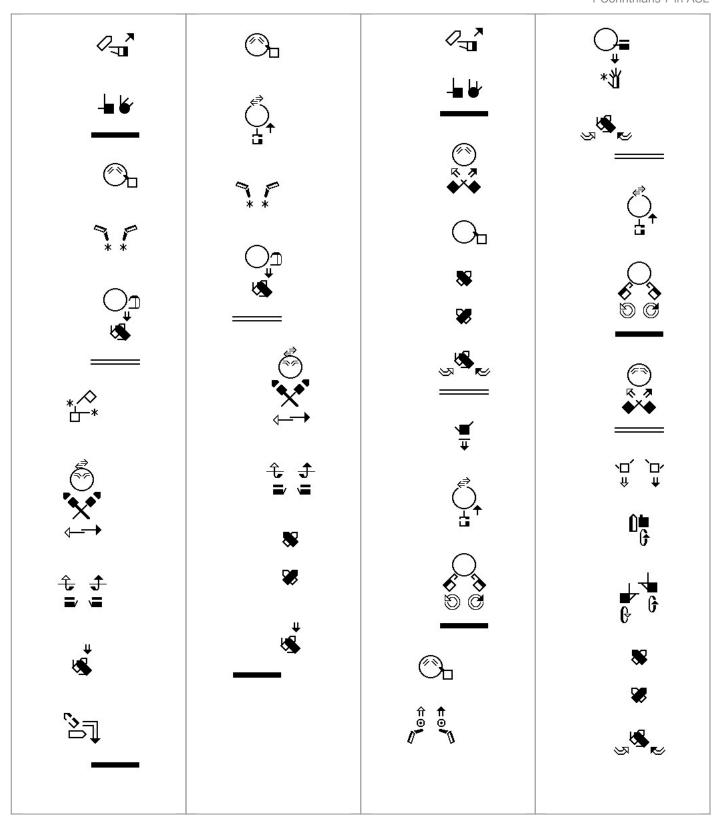
Verse 20. Yes, each of you should remain as you were when God called you. Verse 21. Are you a slave? Don't let that worry you -- but if you get a chance to be free, take it. Verse 22. And remember, if you were a slave when the Lord called you, you are now free in



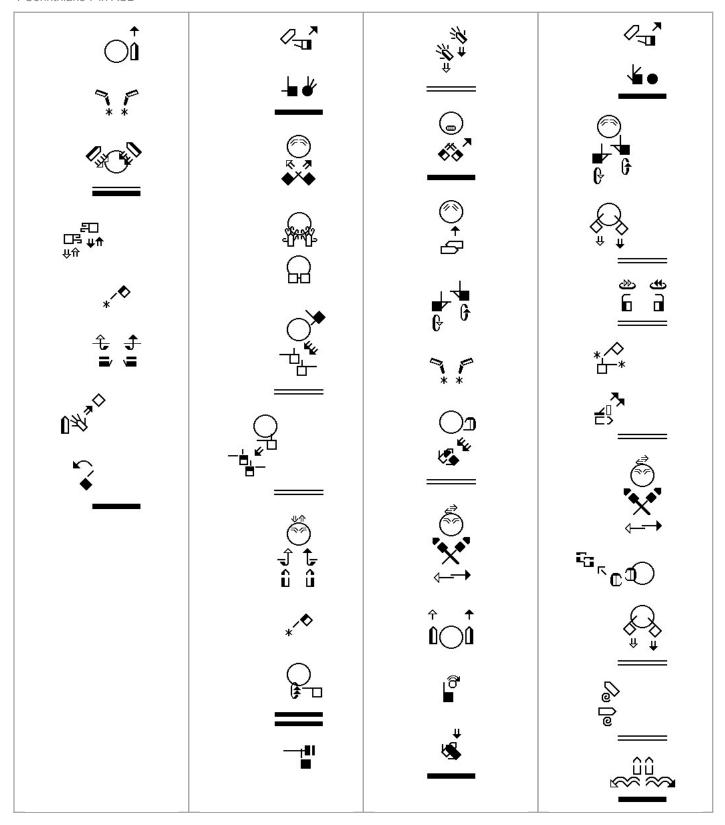
the Lord. And if you were free when the Lord called you, you are now a slave of Christ. Verse 23. God paid a high price for you, so don't be enslaved by the world. Verse 24. Each of you, dear brothers and sisters, should remain as you were when God first called you.



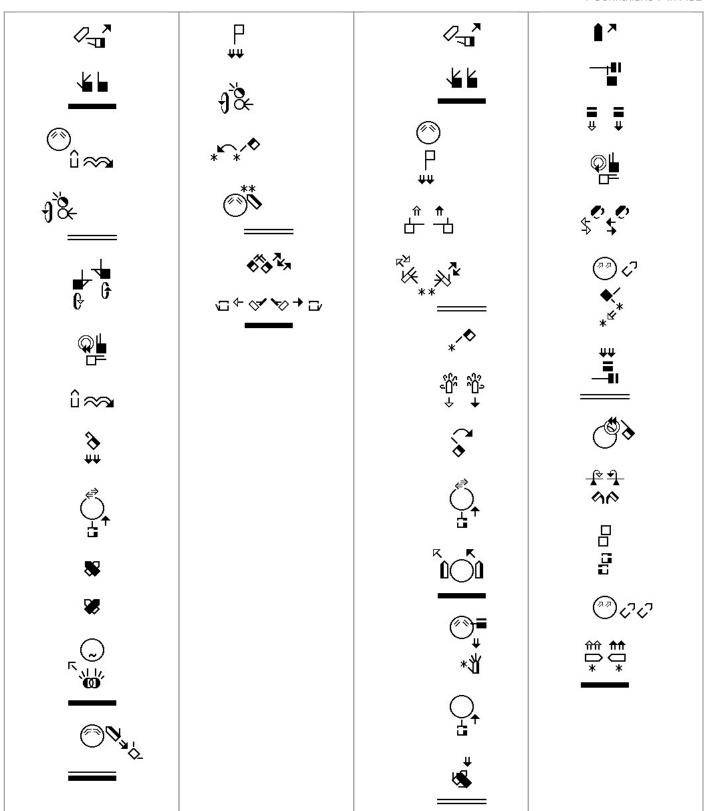
Verse 25. Now regarding your question about the young women who are not yet married. I do not have a command from the Lord for them. But the Lord in his mercy has given me wisdom that can be trusted, and I will share it with you. Verse 26. Because of the present crisis, I think it is best to remain as you are.



Verse 27. If you have a wife, do not seek to end the marriage. If you do not have a wife, do not seek to get married. Verse 28. But if you do get married, it is not a sin. And if a young woman gets married, it is not a sin. However, those who get married at this time NLT

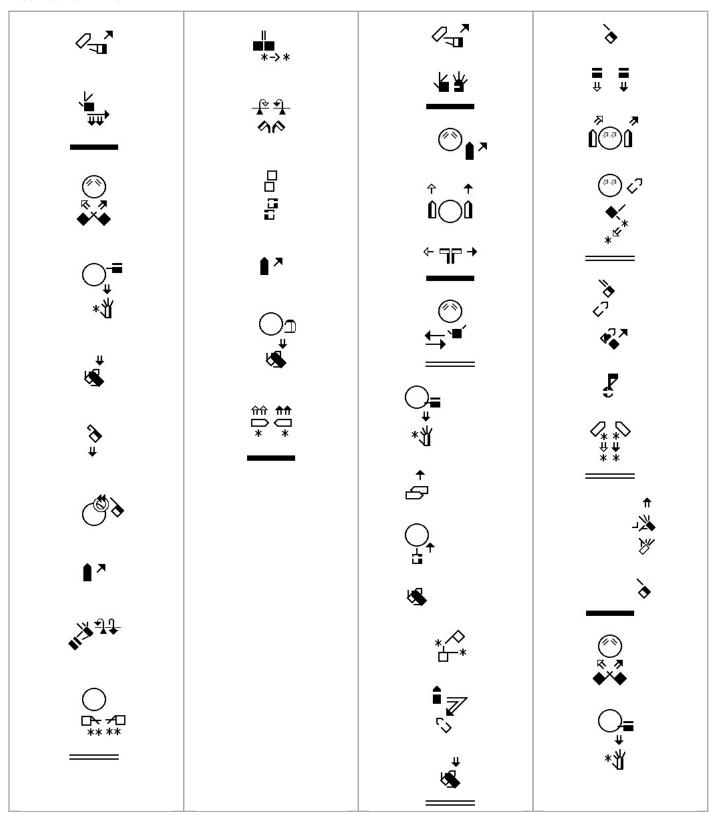


will have troubles, and I am trying to spare you those problems. Verse 29. But let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: The time that remains is very short. So from now on, those with wives should not focus only on their marriage. Verse 30. Those who weep or who rejoice or who buy things should not be absorbed by their weeping or their joy or their possessions.

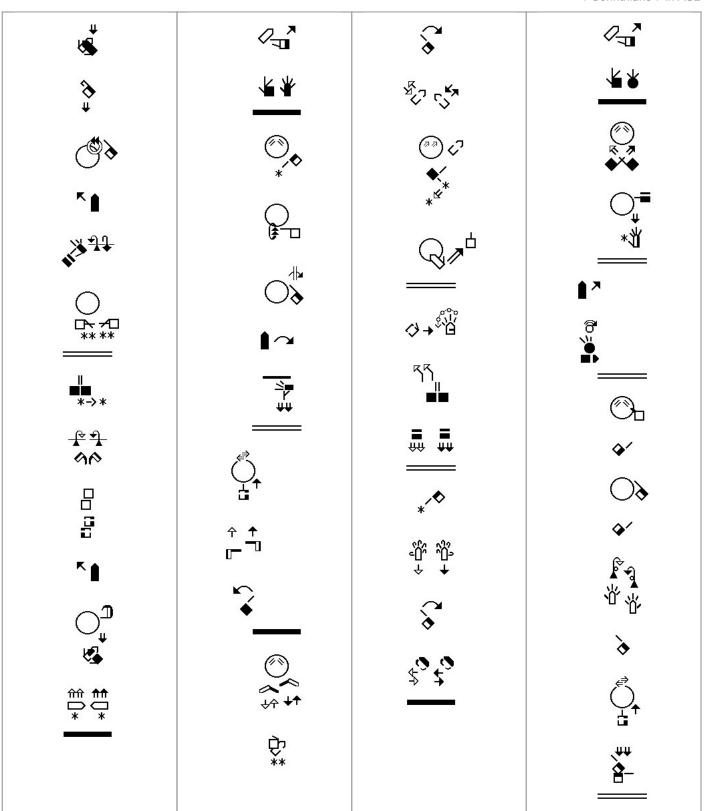


Verse 31. Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away. Verse 32. I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him.

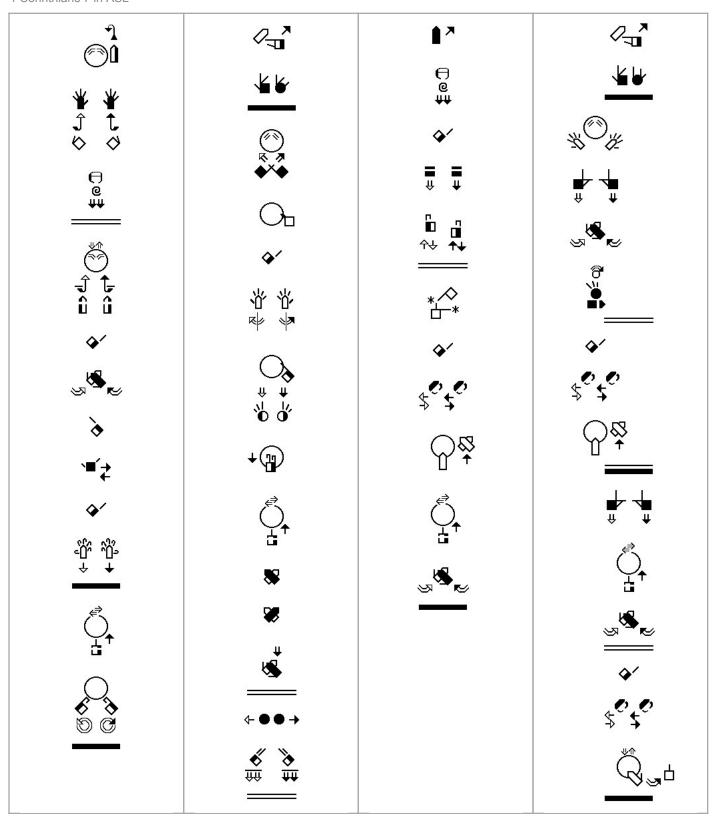
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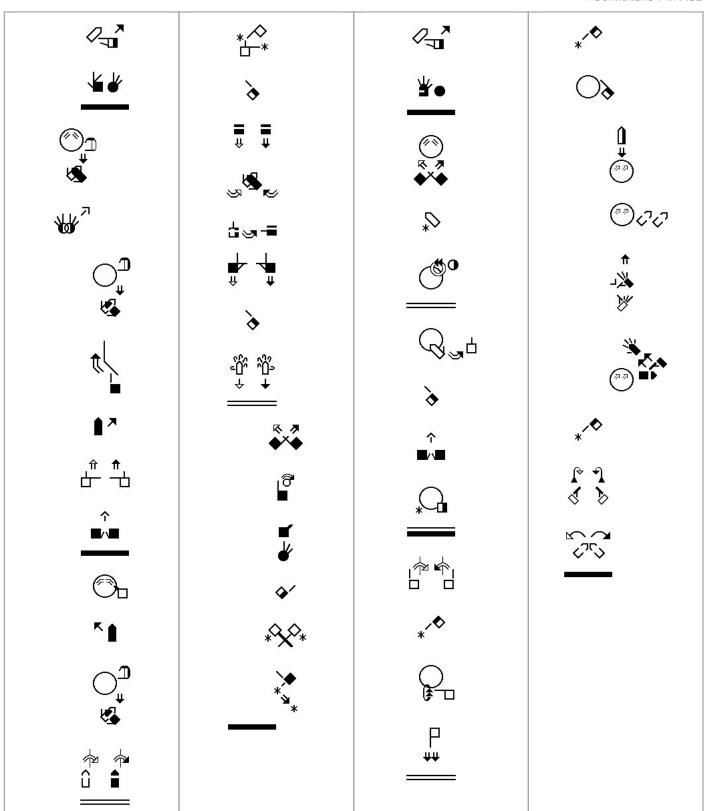
Verse 33. But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. Verse 34. His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But



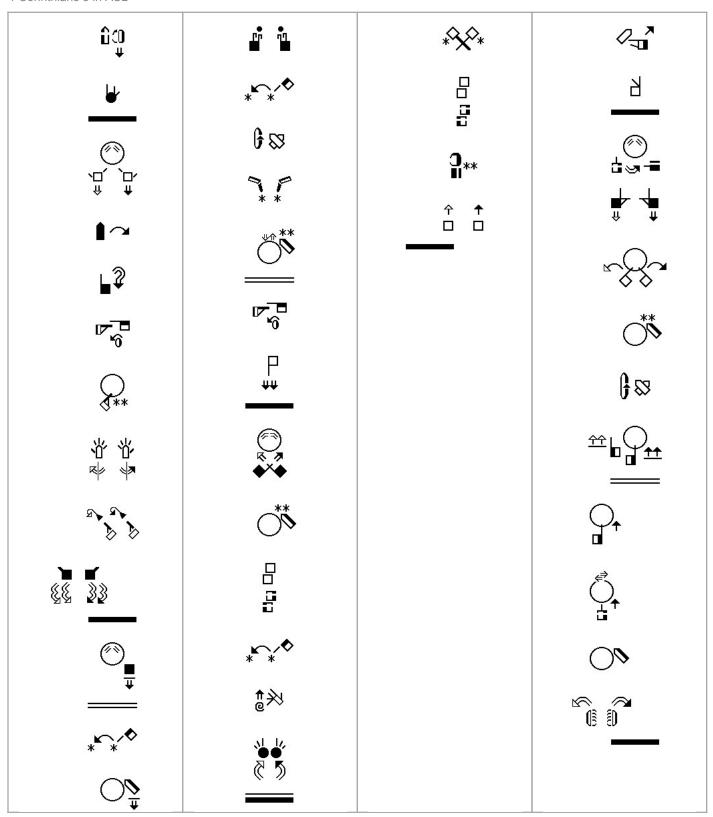
a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. Verse 35. I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible. Verse 36. But if a man thinks that he's treating his fiancee improperly NLT



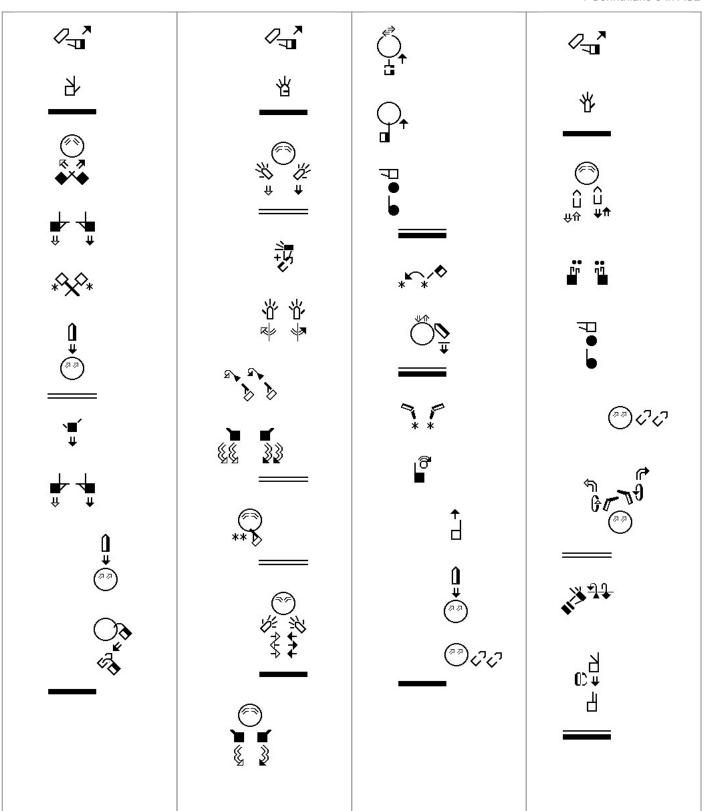
and will inevitably give in to his passion, let him marry her as he wishes. It is not a sin. Verse 37. But if he has decided firmly not to marry and there is no urgency and he can control his passion, he does well not to marry. Verse 38. So the person who marries his fiancee does well, and the person who doesn't marry does even better.



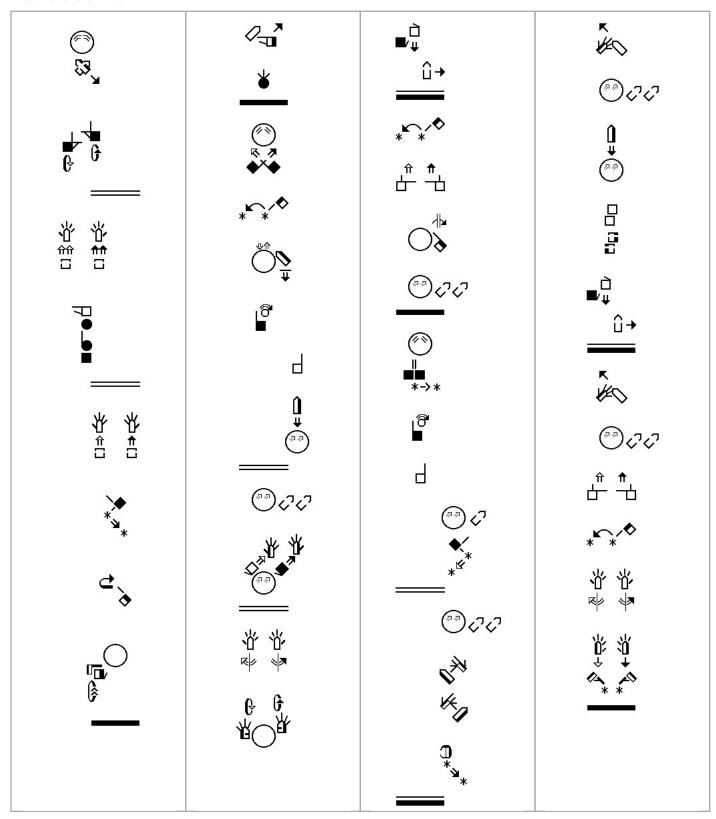
Verse 39. A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord. Verse 40. But in my opinion it would be better for her to stay single, and I think I am giving you counsel from God's Spirit when I say this.



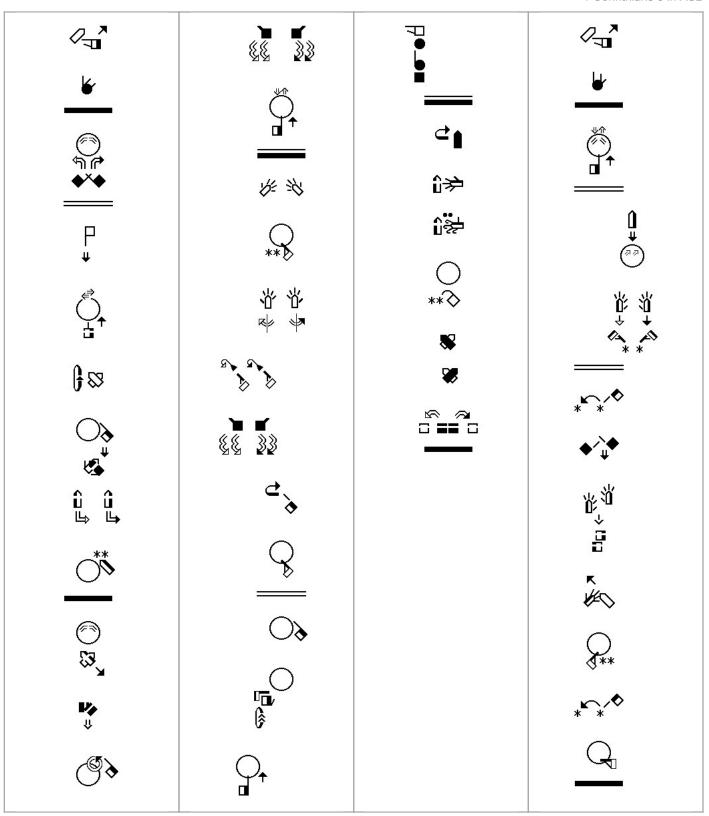
Chapter 8. Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. Verse 2. Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much.



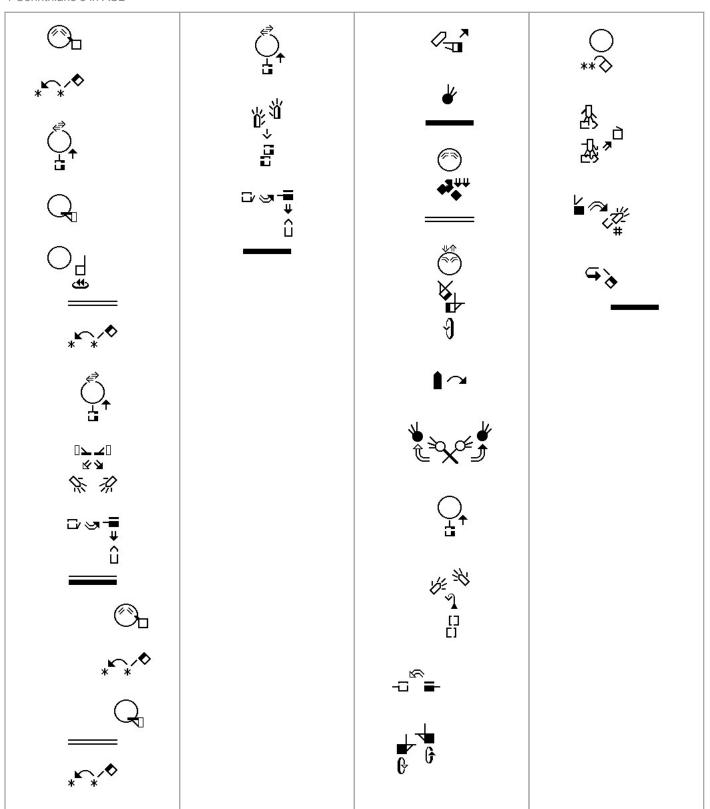
Verse 3. But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes. Verse 4. So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. Verse 5. There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth,



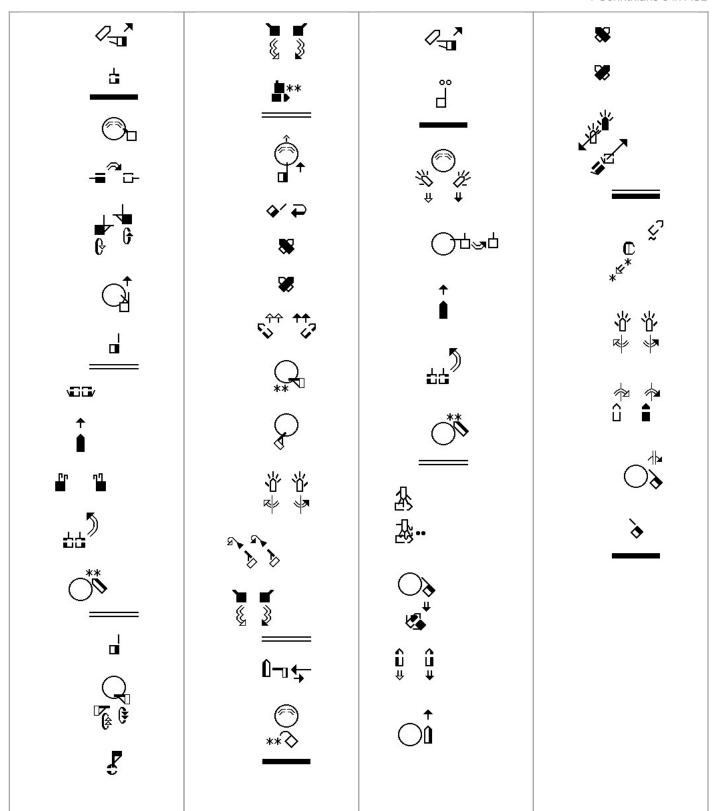
and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. Verse 6. But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.



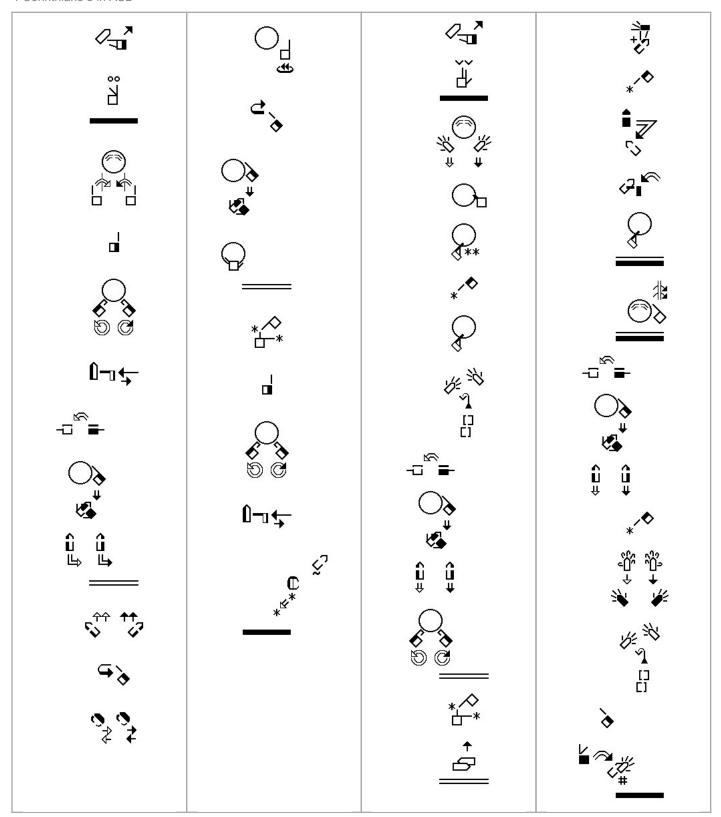
Verse 7. However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. Verse 8. It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat.



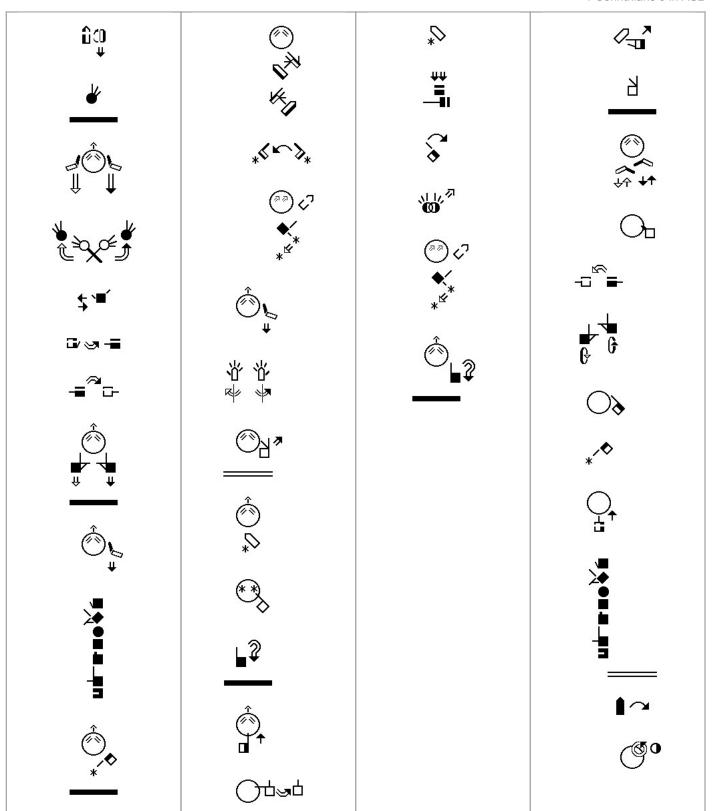
We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do. Verse 9. But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.



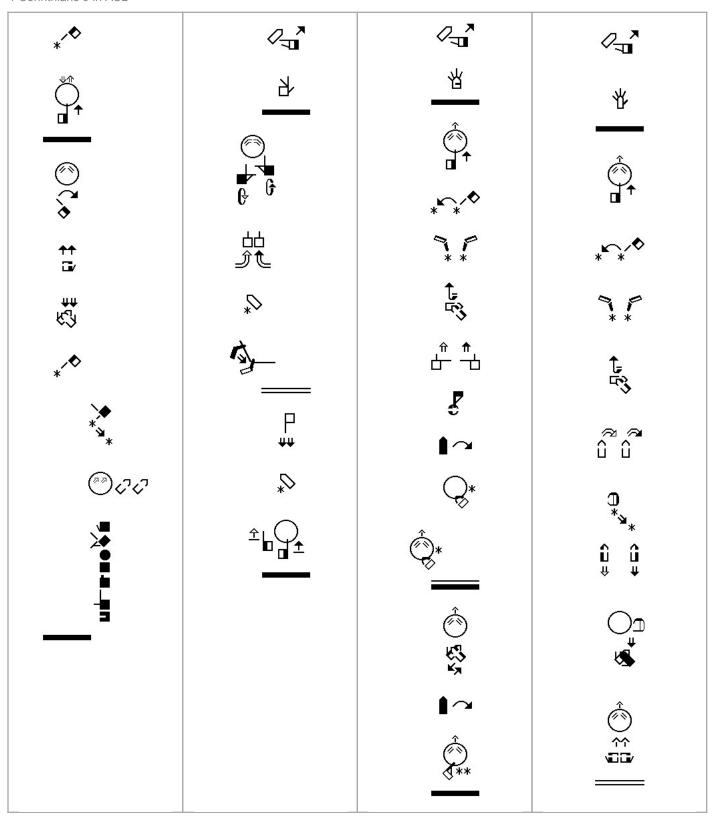
Verse 10. For if others see you -- with your "superior knowledge" -- eating in the temple of an idol, won't they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? Verse 11. So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed.



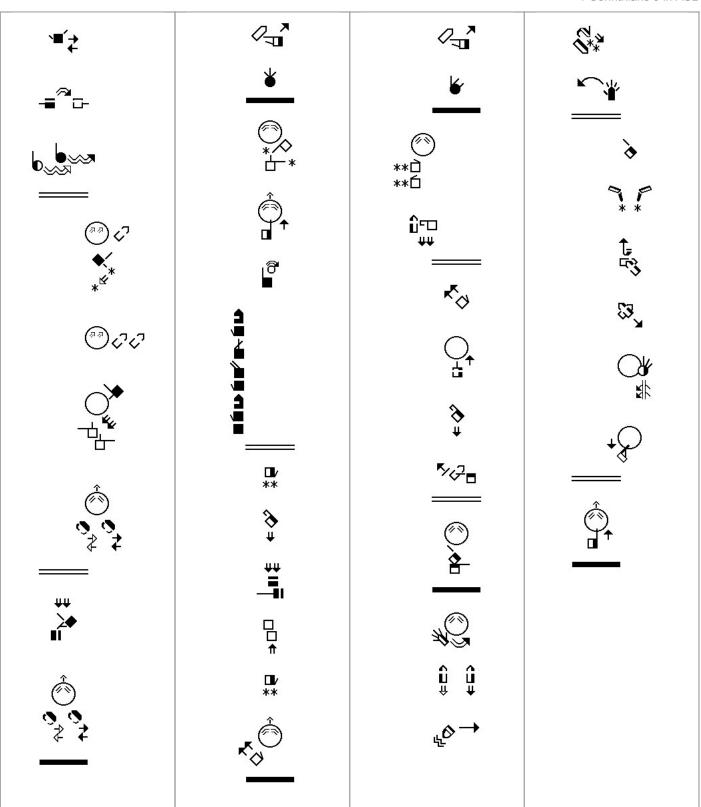
Verse 12. And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. Verse 13. So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live -- for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble.



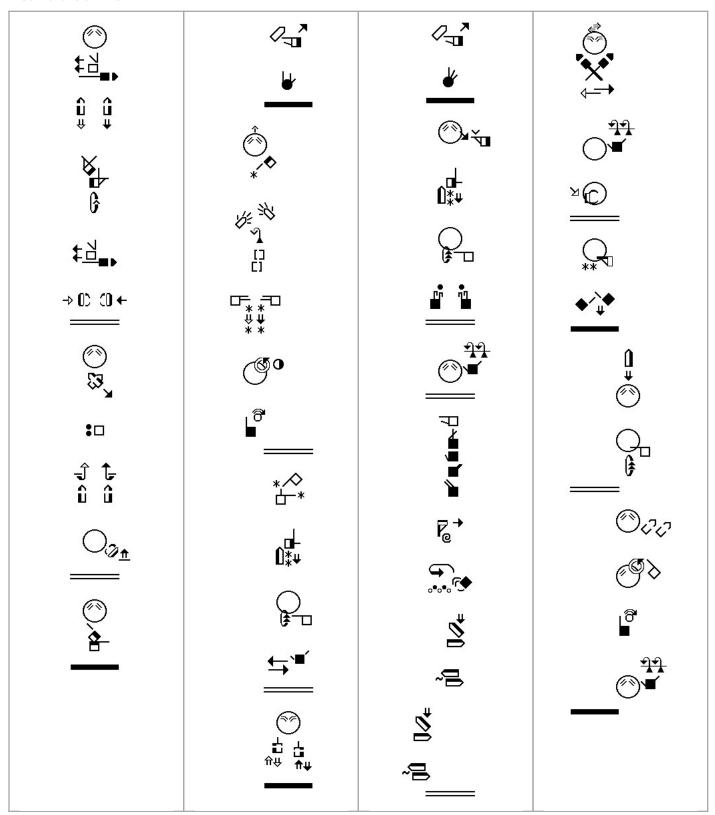
Chapter 9. Am I not as free as anyone else? Am I not an apostle? Haven't I seen Jesus our Lord with my own eyes? Isn't it because of my work that you belong to the Lord? Verse 2. Even if others think I am not an apostle,



I certainly am to you. You yourselves are proof that I am the Lord's apostle. Verse 3. This is my answer to those who question my authority. Verse 4. Don't we have the right to live in your homes and share your meals? Verse 5. Don't we have the right to bring a Christian wife with us

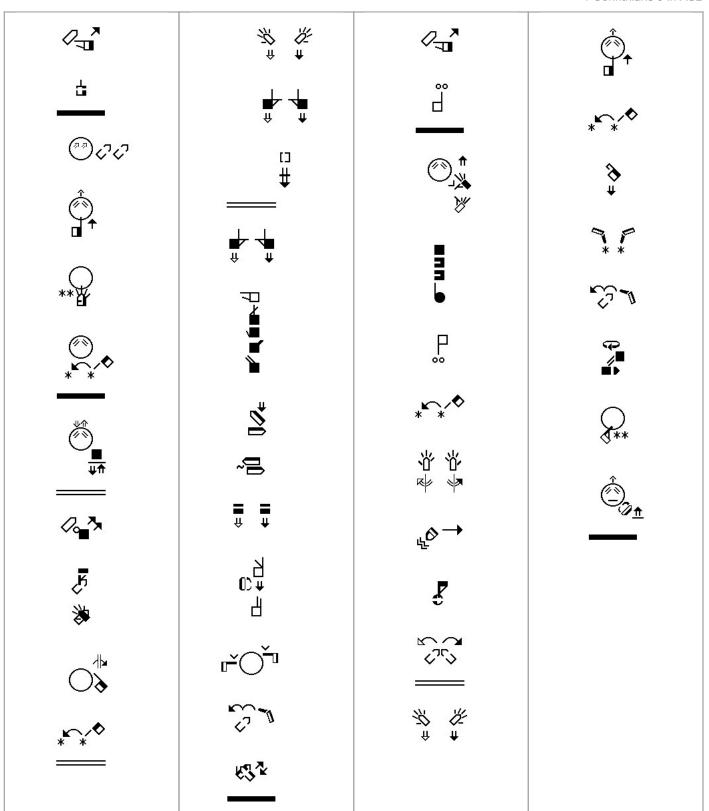


as the other disciples and the Lord's brothers do, and as Peter does? Verse 6. Or is it only Barnabas and I who have to work to support ourselves? Verse 7. What soldier has to pay his own expenses? What farmer plants a vineyard and doesn't have the right to eat some of its fruit?

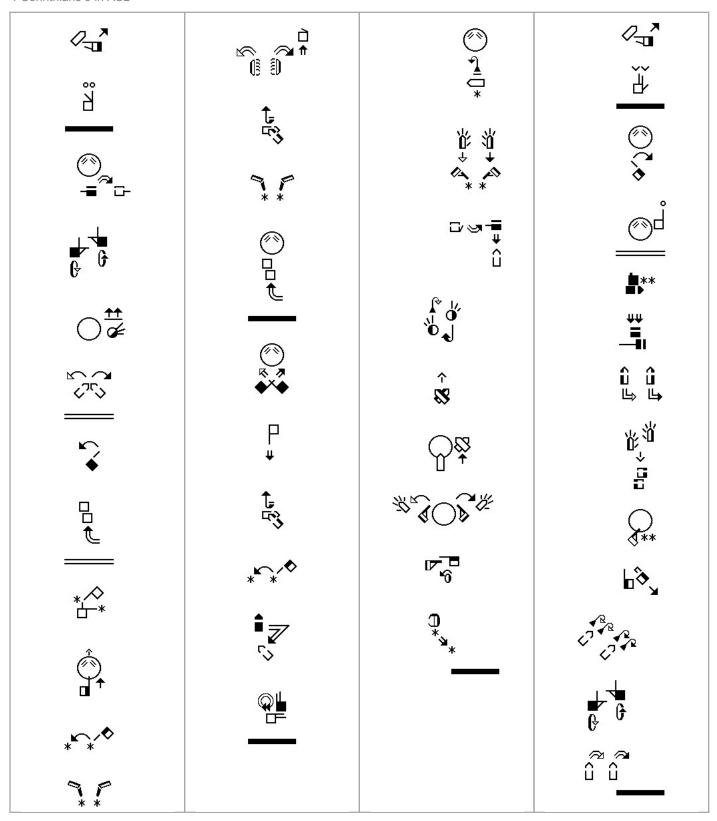


What shepherd cares for a flock of sheep and isn't allowed to drink some of the milk? Verse 8. Am I expressing merely a human opinion, or does the law say the same thing? Verse 9. For the law of Moses says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain." Was God thinking only about oxen when he said this?

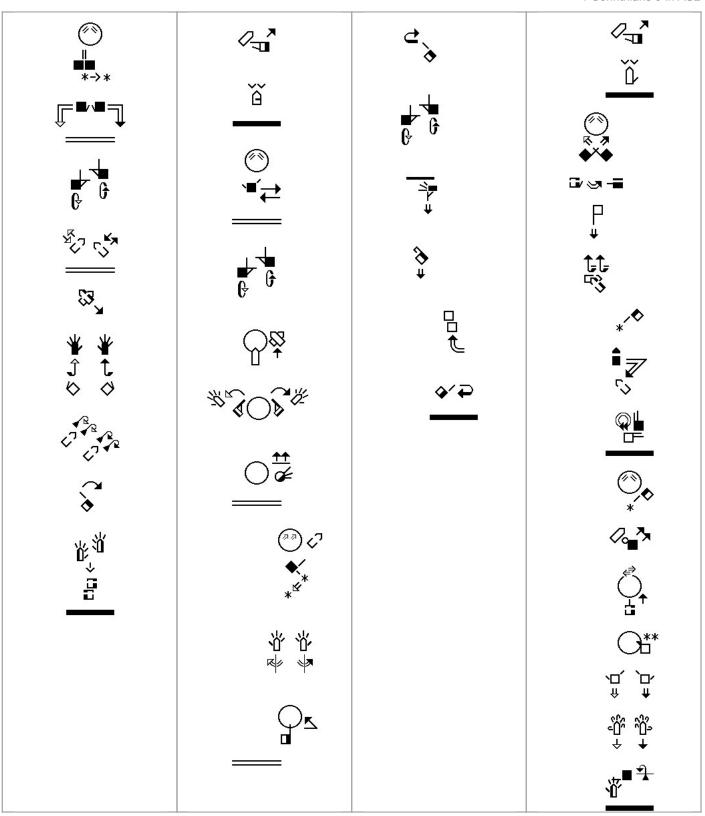
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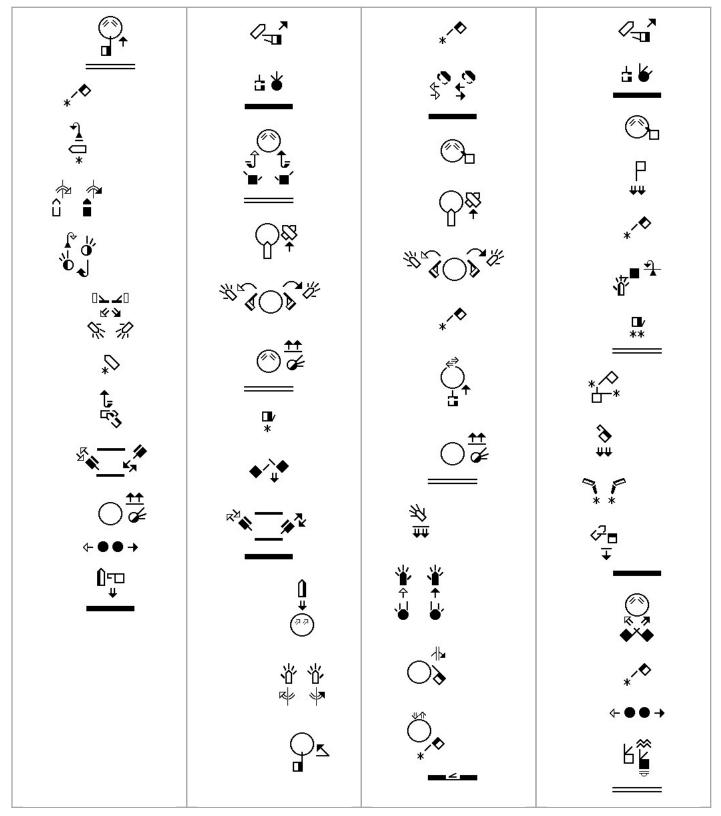
Verse 10. Wasn't he actually speaking to us? Yes, it was written for us, so that the one who plows and the one who threshes the grain might both expect a share of the harvest. Verse 11. Since we have planted spiritual seed among you, aren't we entitled to a harvest of physical food and drink?



Verse 12. If you support others who preach to you, shouldn't we have an even greater right to be supported? But we have never used this right. We would rather put up with anything than be an obstacle to the Good News about Christ. Verse 13. Don't you realize that those who work in the temple get their meals from the offerings brought to the temple?



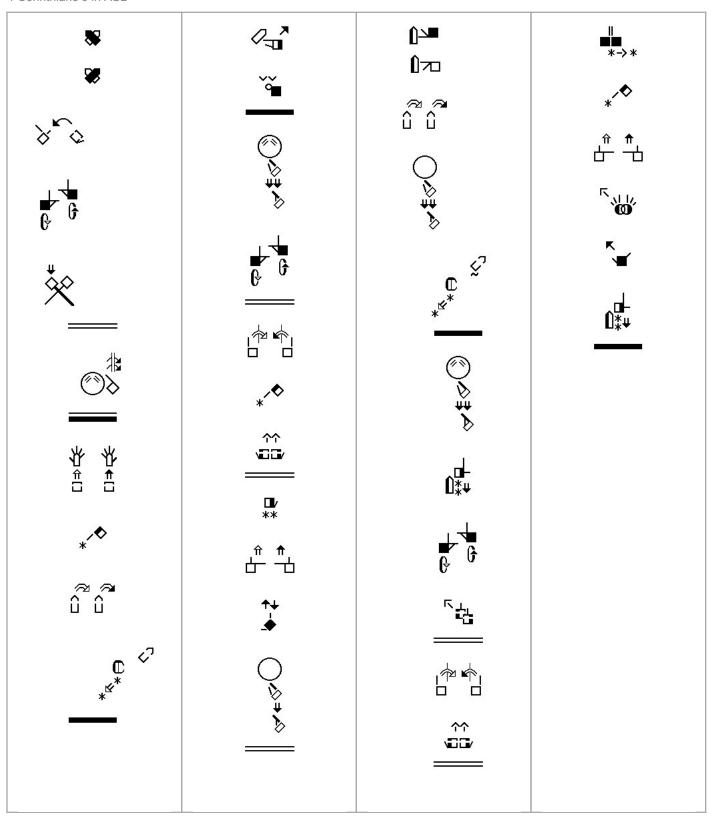
And those who serve at the altar get a share of the sacrificial offerings. Verse 14. In the same way, the Lord ordered that those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it. Verse 15. Yet I have never used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that I want to start now.



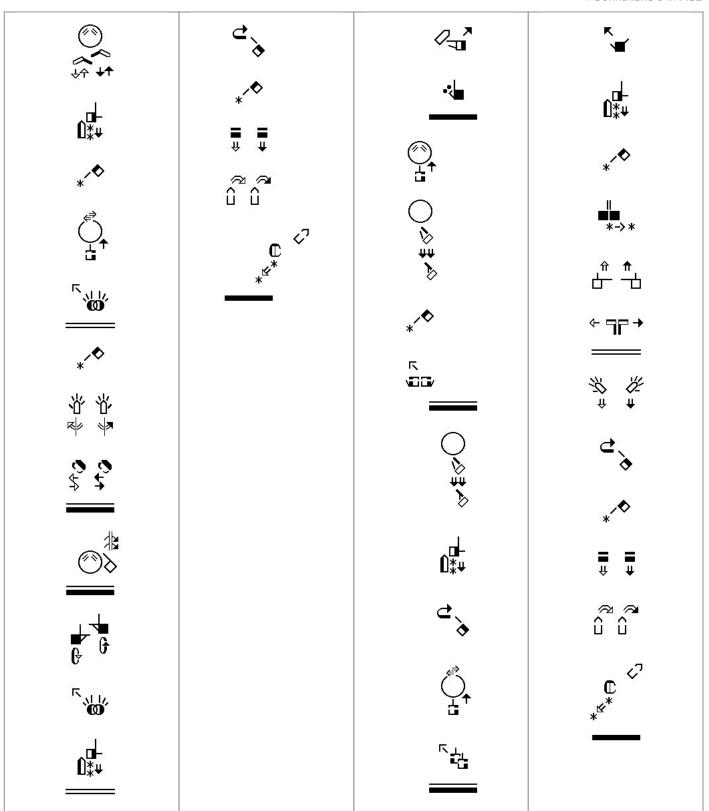
In fact, I would rather die than lose my right to boast about preaching without charge. Verse 16. Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News! Verse 17. If I were doing this on my own initiative, I would deserve payment. But I have no choice,

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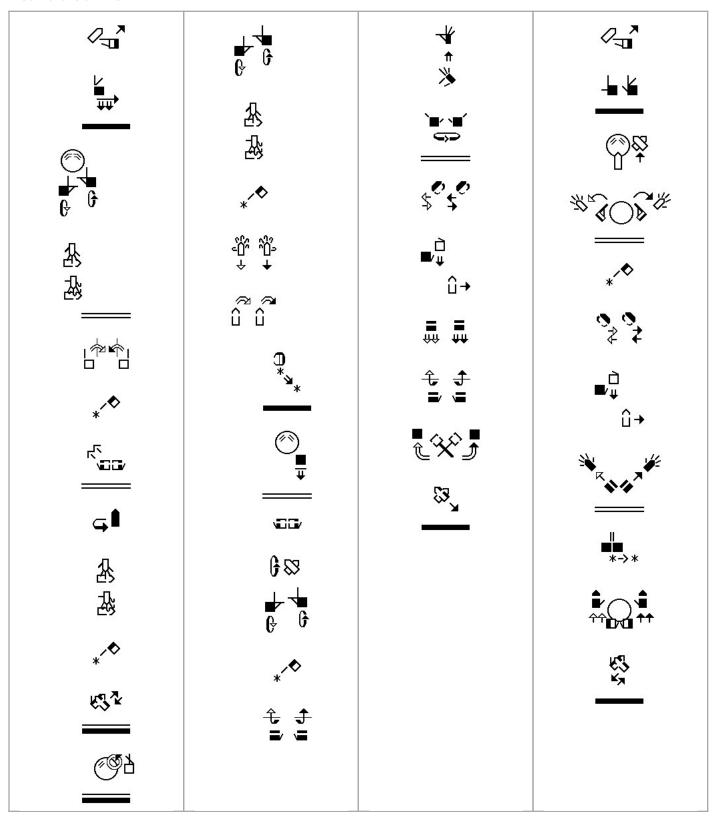
for God has given me this sacred trust. Verse 18. What then is my pay? It is the opportunity to preach the Good News without charging anyone. That's why I never demand my rights when I preach the Good News. Verse 19. Even though I am a free man with no master, I



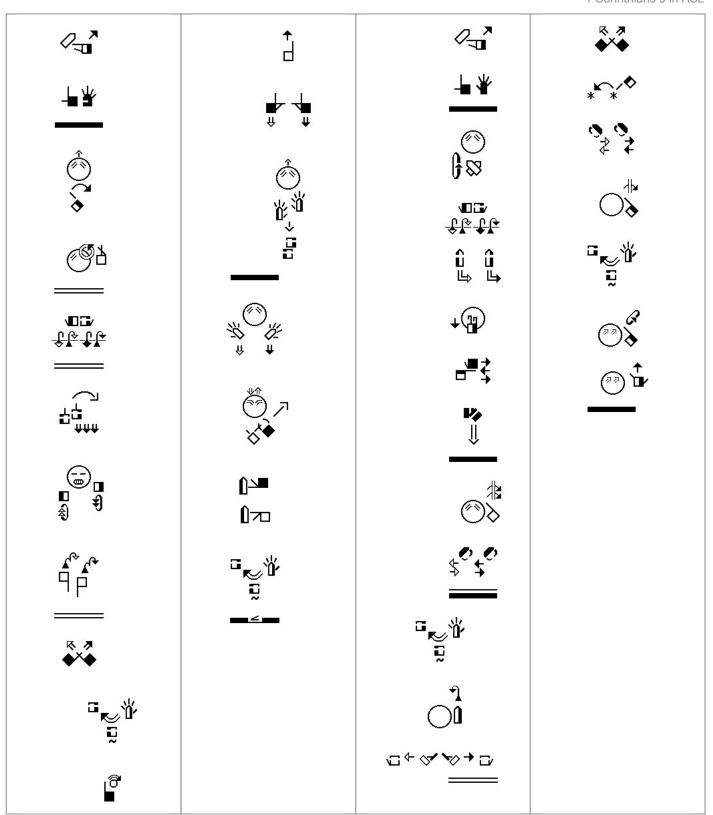
have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. Verse 20. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law.



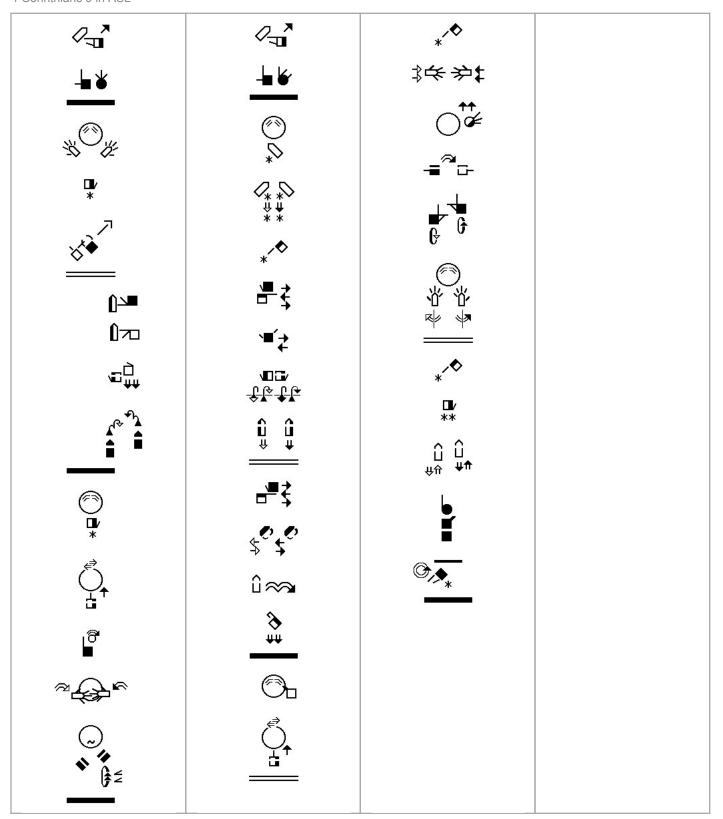
Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. Verse 21. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.



Verse 22. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. Verse 23. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

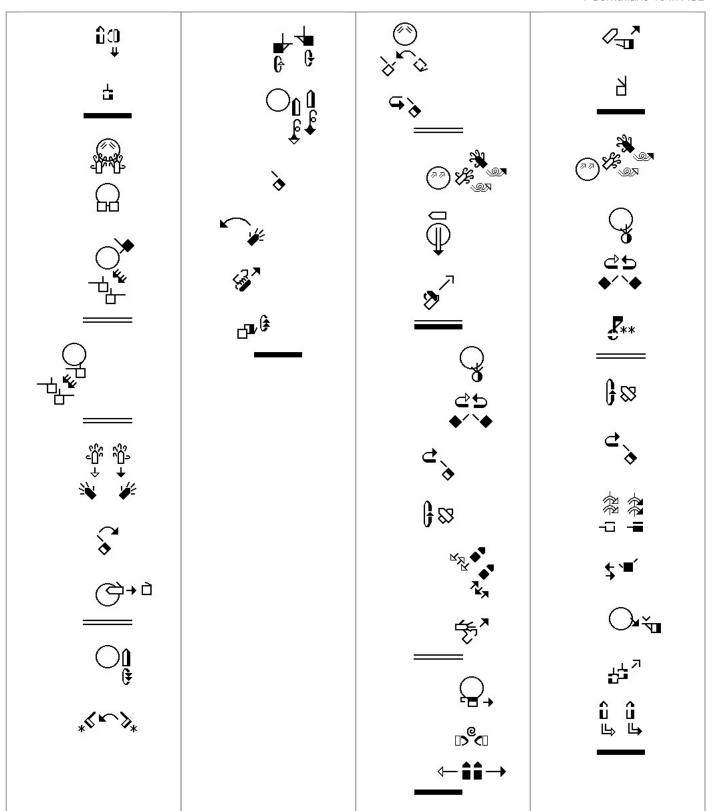


Verse 24. Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! Verse 25. All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.

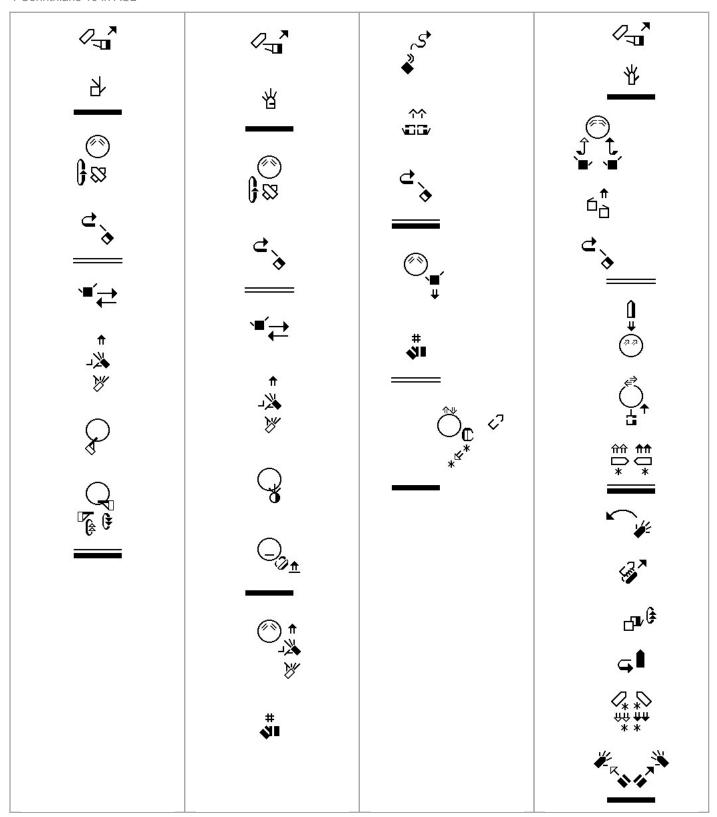


Verse 26. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. Verse 27. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

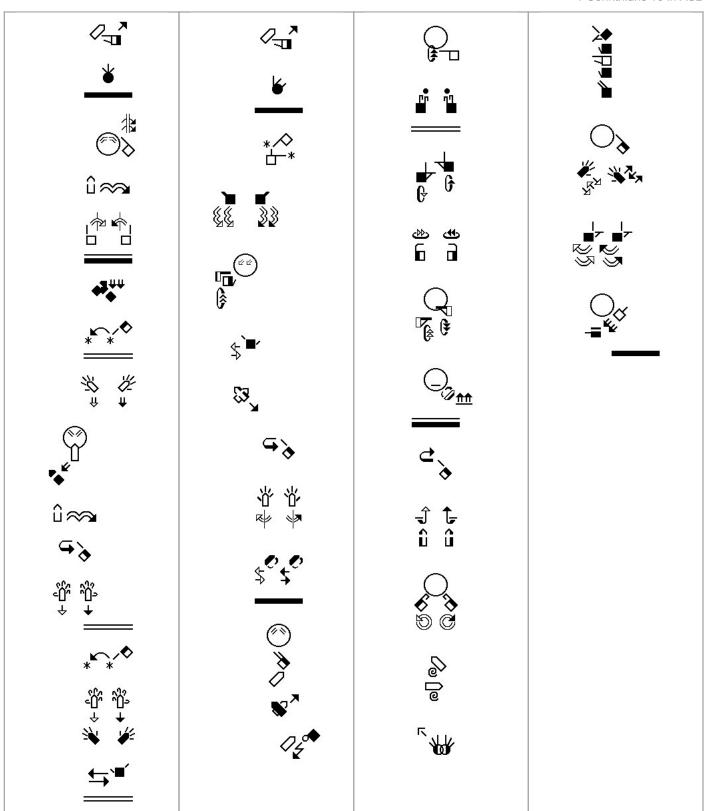
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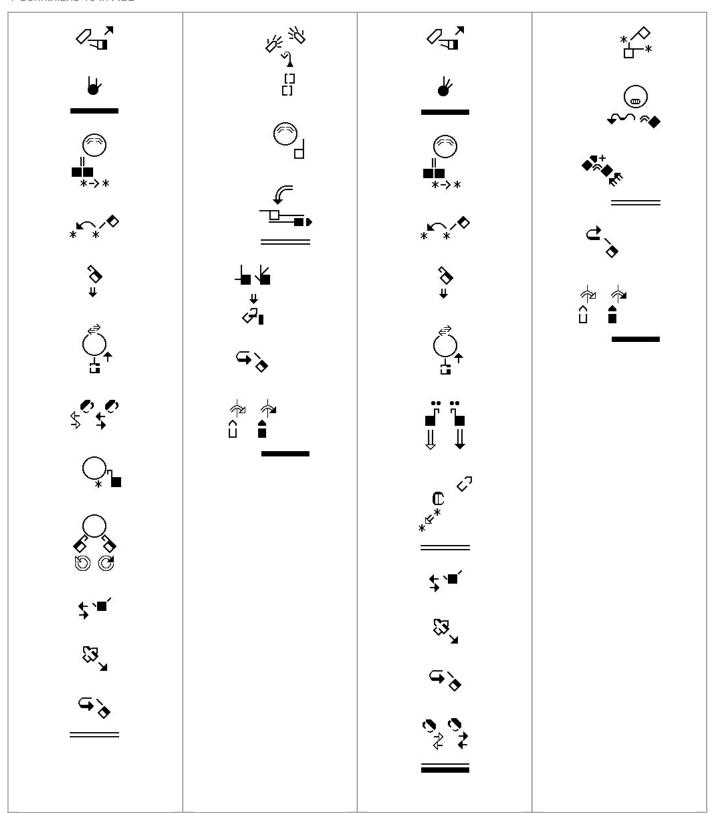
Chapter 10. I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. Verse 2. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses.



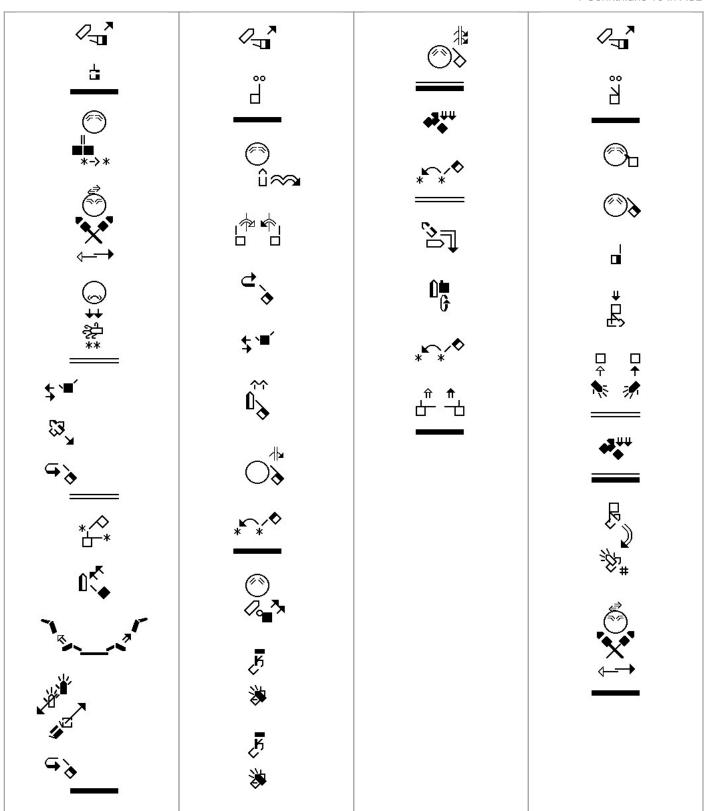
Verse 3. All of them ate the same spiritual food, Verse 4. and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. Verse 5. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.



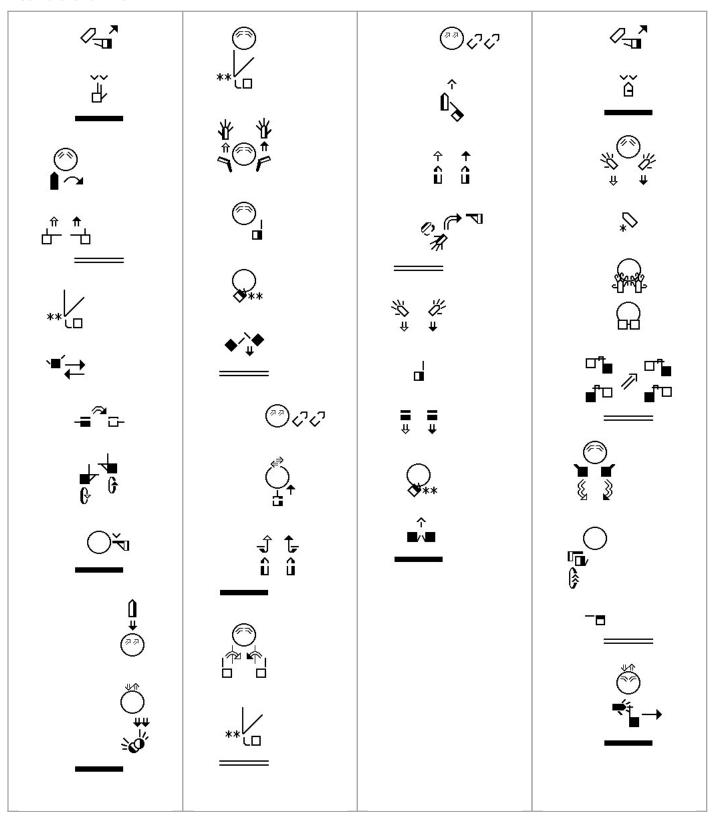
Verse 6. These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did, Verse 7. or worship idols as some of them did. As the Scriptures say, "The people celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry." NLT



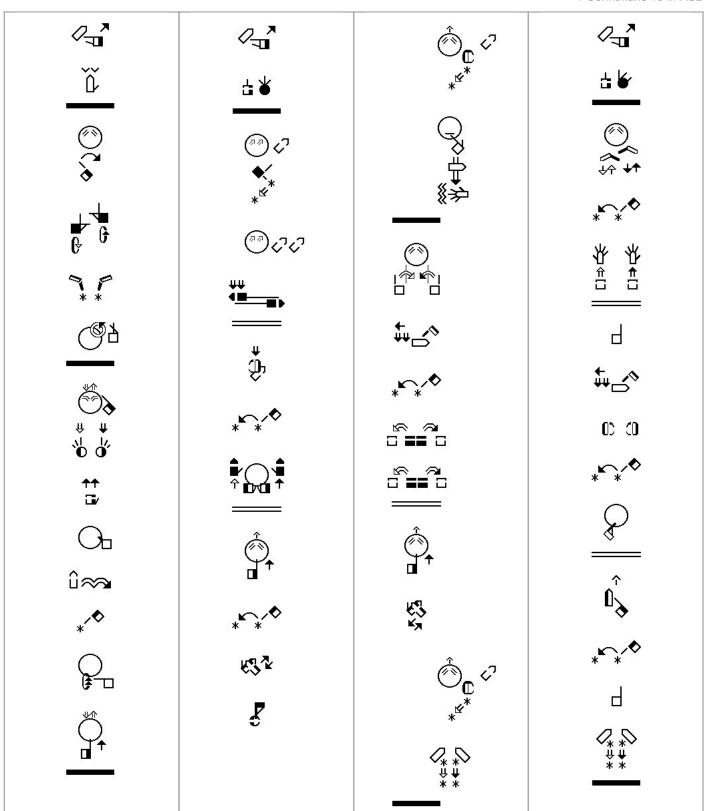
Verse 8. And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day. Verse 9. Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites.



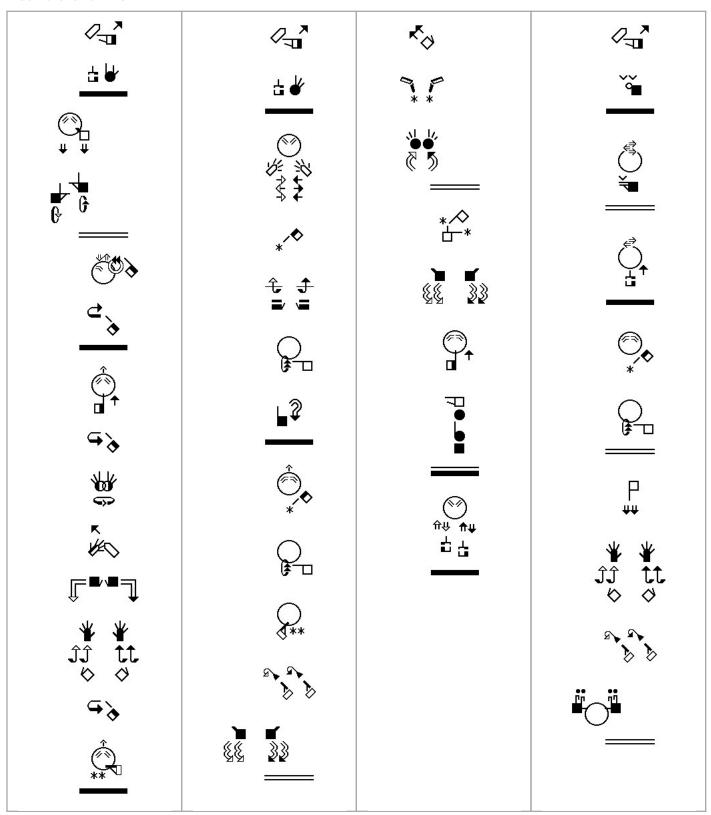
Verse 10. And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. Verse 11. These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. Verse 12. If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.



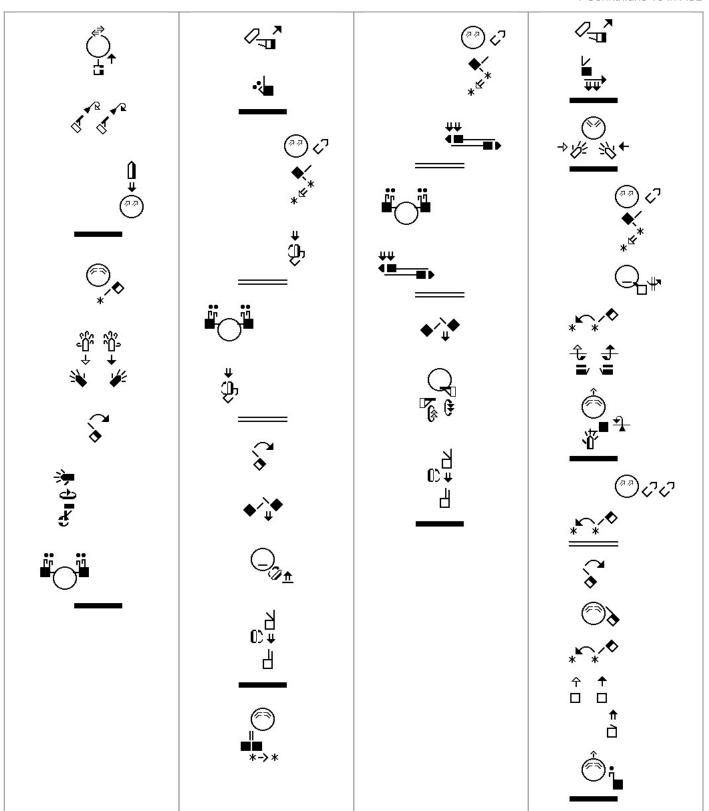
Verse 13. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. Verse 14. So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols.



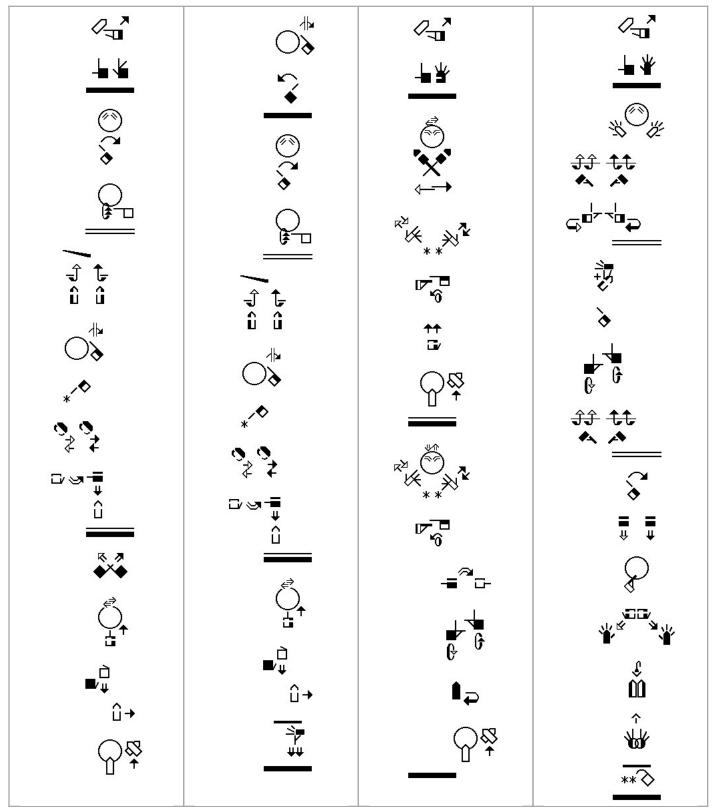
Verse 15. You are reasonable people. Decide for yourselves if what I am saying is true. Verse 16. When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? Verse 17. And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.



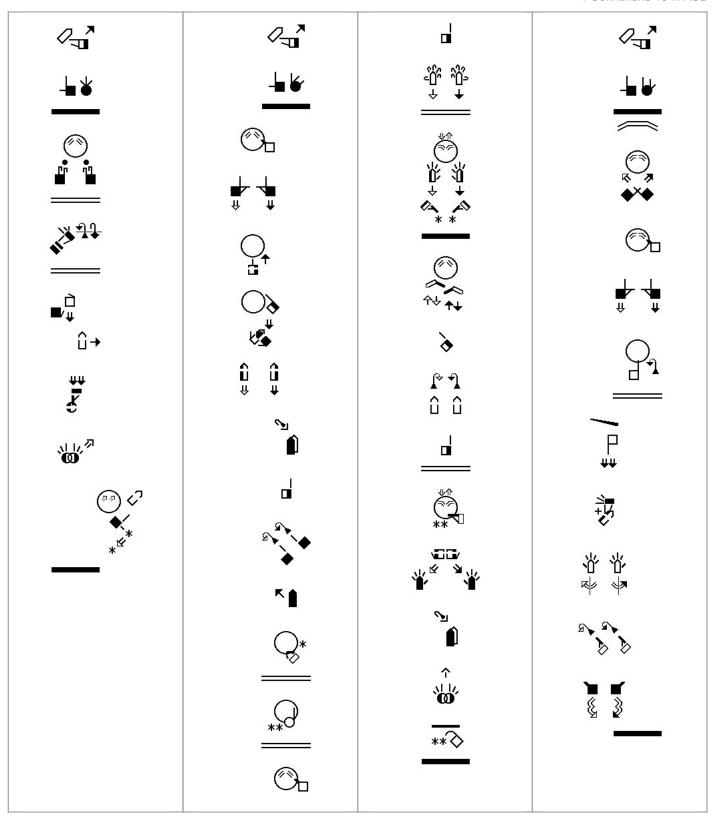
Verse 18. Think about the people of Israel. Weren't they united by eating the sacrifices at the altar? Verse 19. What am I trying to say? Am I saying that food offered to idols has some significance, or that idols are real gods? Verse 20. No, not at all. I am saying that these sacrifices are offered to demons,



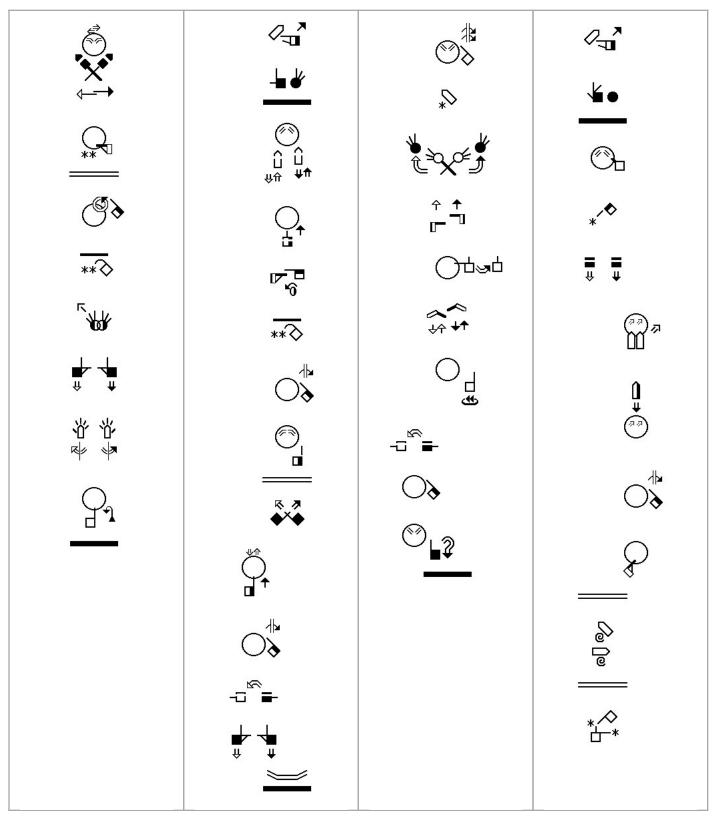
not to God. And I don't want you to participate with demons. Verse 21. You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and from the cup of demons, too. You cannot eat at the Lord's Table and at the table of demons, too. Verse 22. What? Do we dare to rouse the Lord's jealousy? Do you think we are stronger than he is?



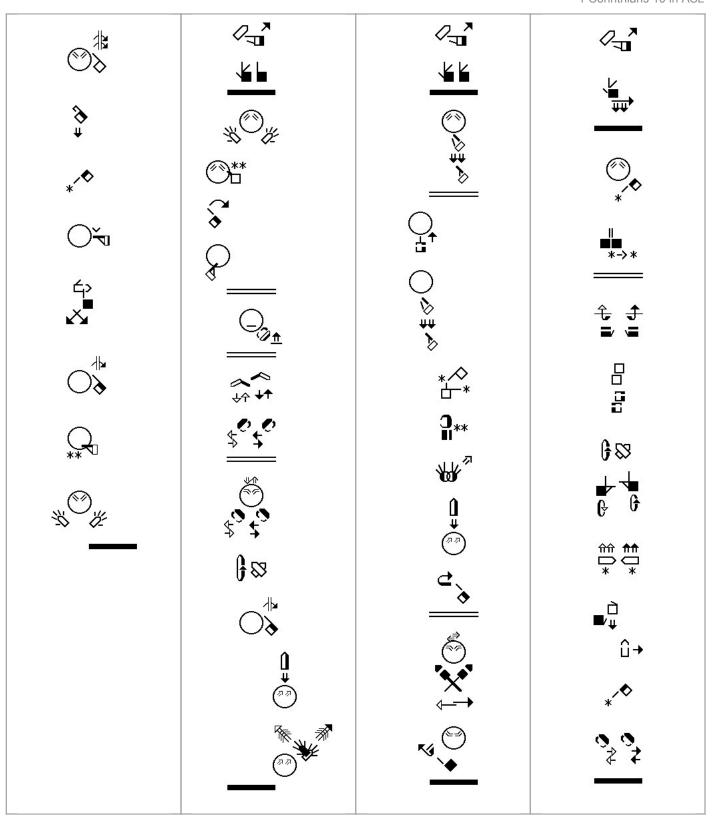
Verse 23. You say, "I am allowed to do anything" -- but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything" -- but not everything is beneficial. Verse 24. Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others. Verse 25. So you may eat any meat that is sold in the marketplace without raising questions of conscience.



Verse 26. For "the earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it." Verse 27. If someone who isn't a believer asks you home for dinner, accept the invitation if you want to. Eat whatever is offered to you without raising questions of conscience. Verse 28. (But suppose someone tells you, "This meat was offered to an idol."

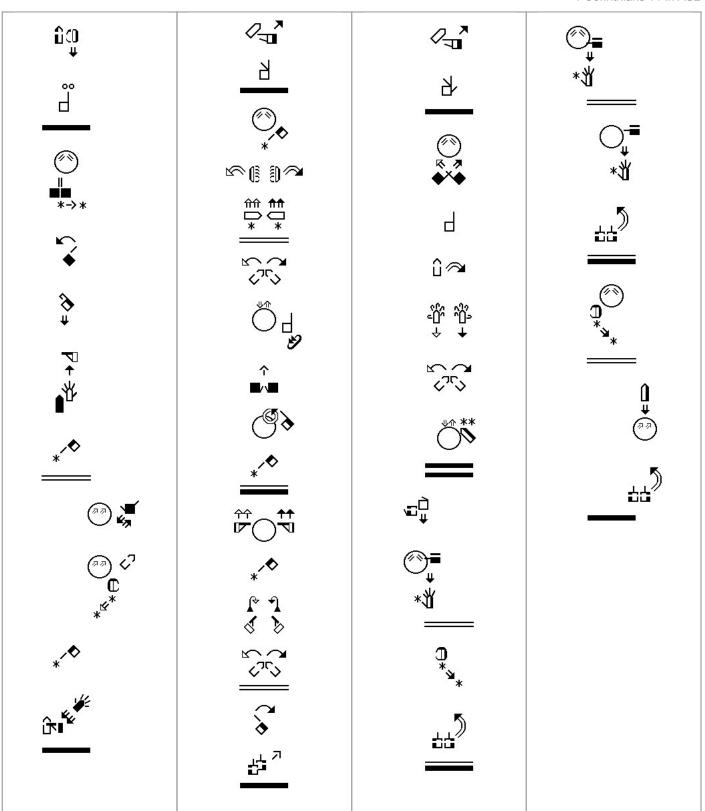


Don't eat it, out of consideration for the conscience of the one who told you. Verse 29. It might not be a matter of conscience for you, but it is for the other person.) For why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks? Verse 30. If I can thank God for the food and enjoy it,



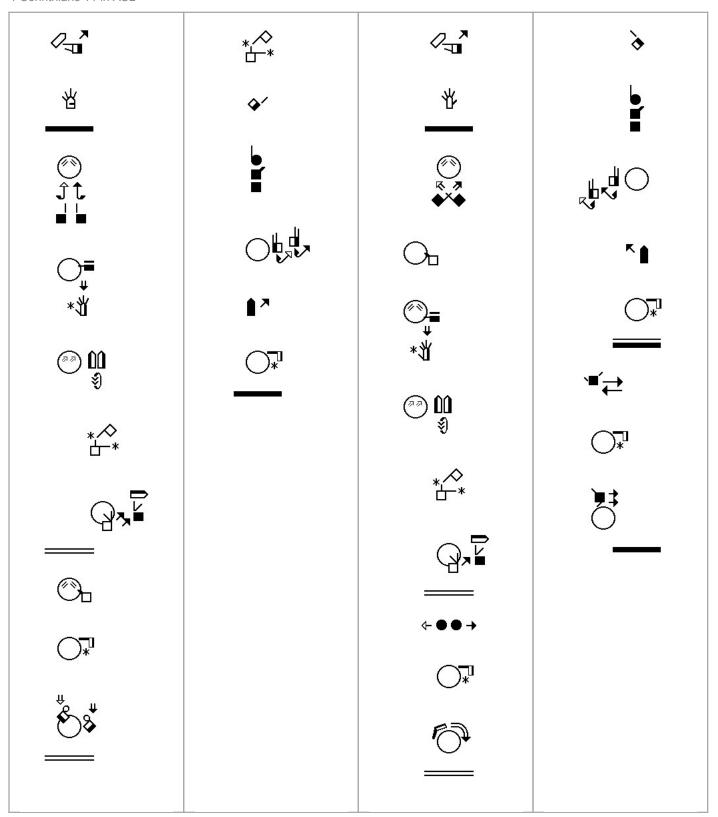
why should I be condemned for eating it? Verse 31. So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Verse 32. Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. Verse 33. I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. NLT

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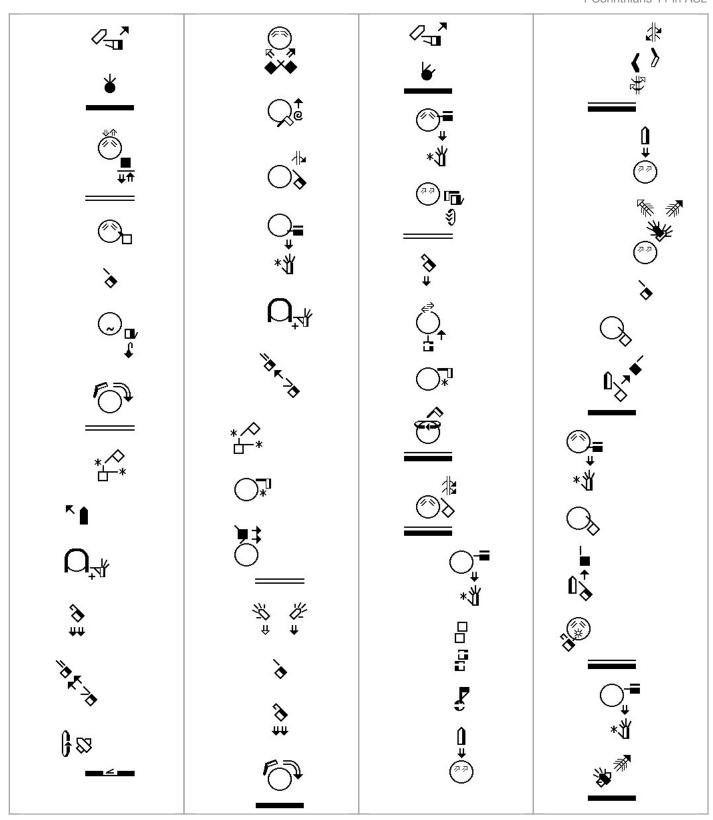
Chapter 11. And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ. Verse 2. I am so glad that you always keep me in your thoughts, and that you are following the teachings I passed on to you. Verse 3. But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

NLT

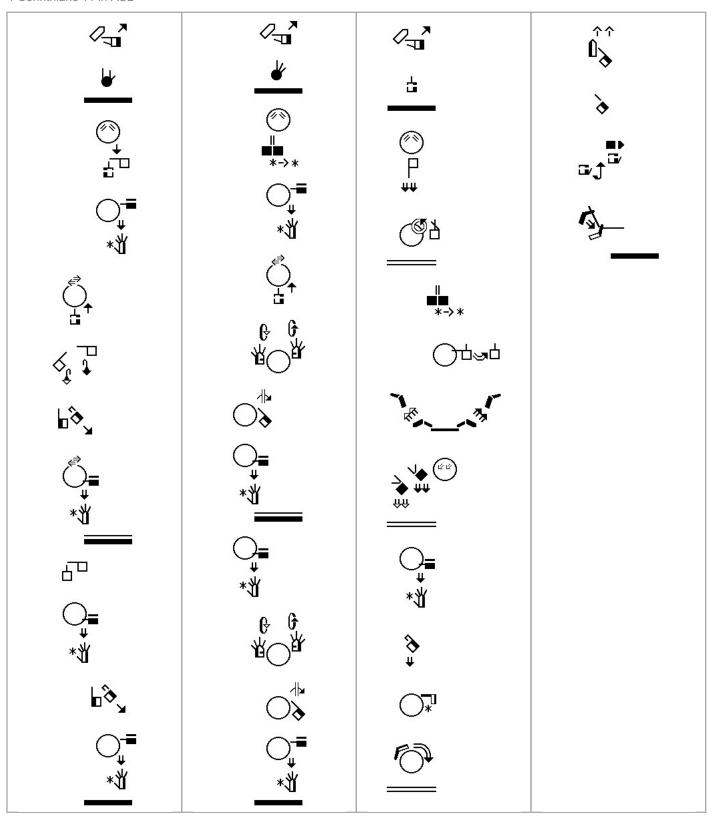


Verse 4. A man dishonors his head if he covers his head while praying or prophesying. Verse 5. But a woman dishonors her head if she prays or prophesies without a covering on her head, for this is the same as shaving her head.

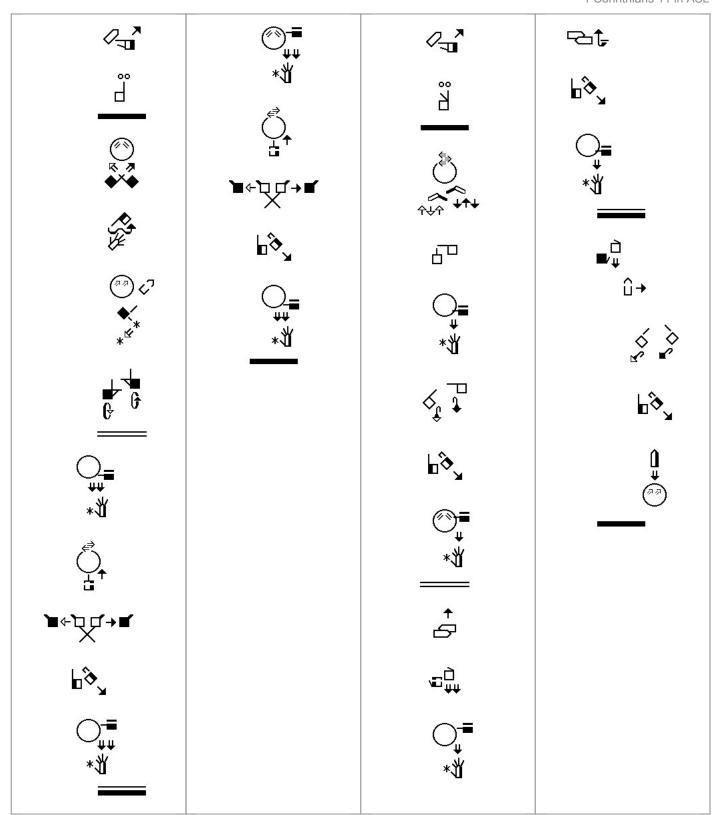
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Verse 6. Yes, if she refuses to wear a head covering, she should cut off all her hair! But since it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or her head shaved, she should wear a covering. Verse 7. A man should not wear anything on his head when worshiping, for man is made in God's image and reflects God's glory. And woman reflects man's glory.

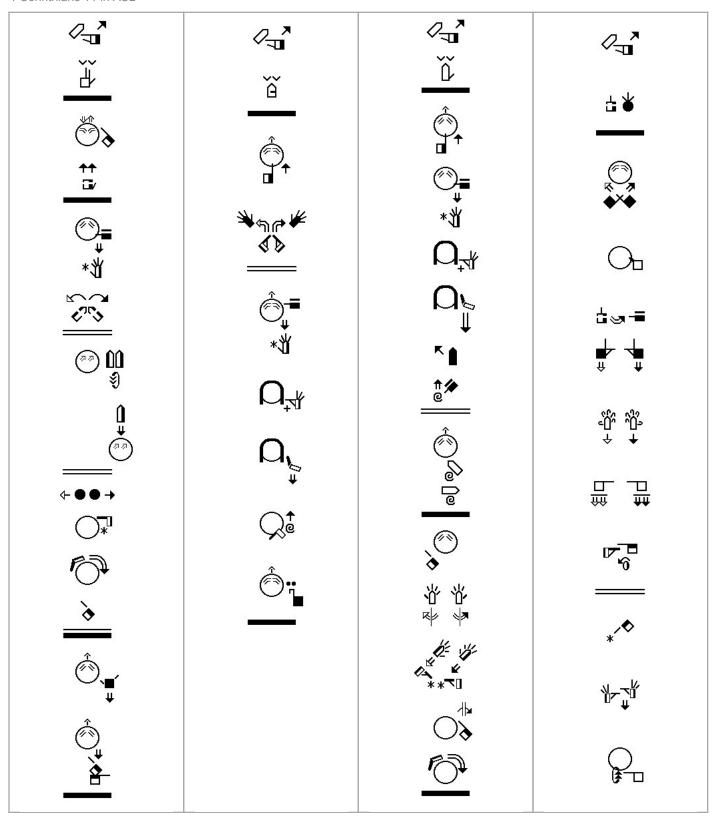


Verse 8. For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came from man. Verse 9. And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man. Verse 10. For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority.

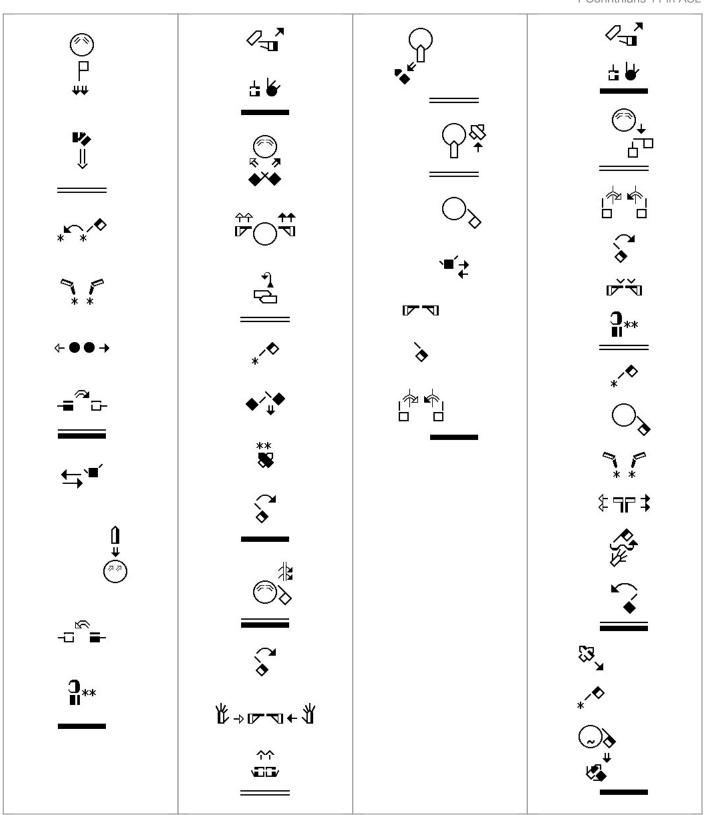


Verse 11. But among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women. Verse 12. For although the first woman came from man, every other man was born from a woman, and everything comes from God.

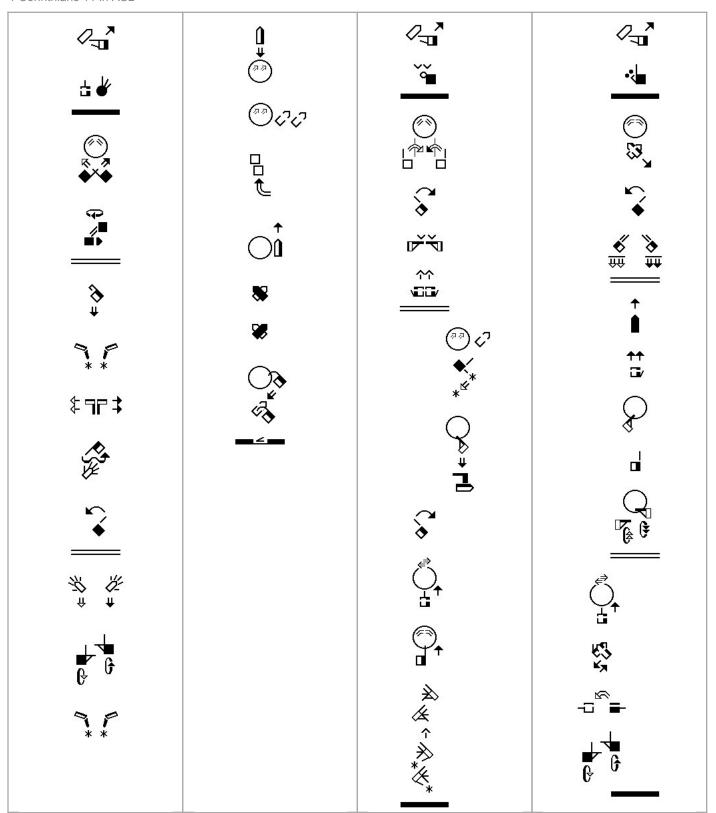
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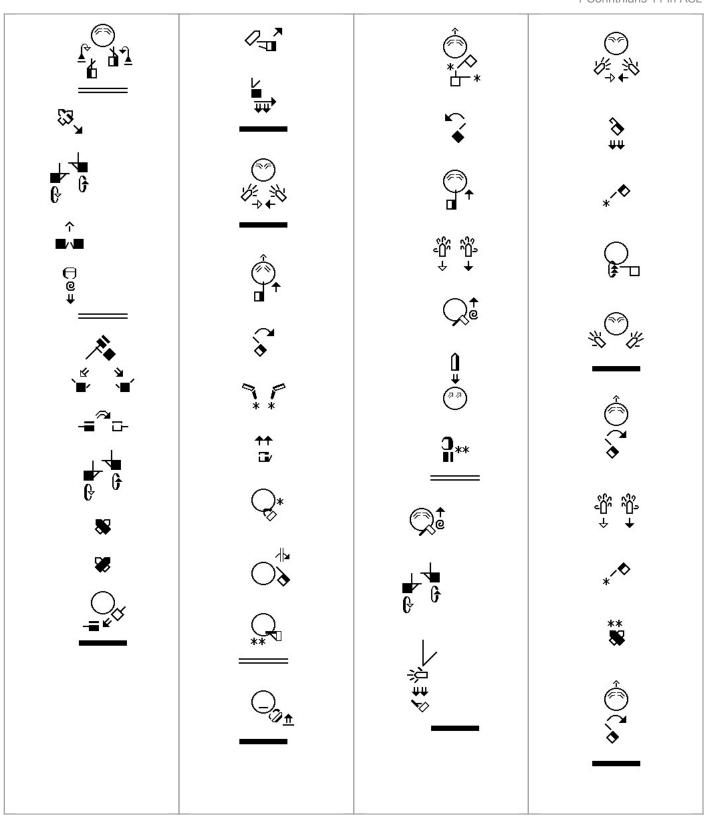
Verse 13. Judge for yourselves. Is it right for a woman to pray to God in public without covering her head? Verse 14. Isn't it obvious that it's disgraceful for a man to have long hair? Verse 15. And isn't long hair a woman's pride and joy? For it has been given to her as a covering. Verse 16. But if anyone wants to argue about this, I simply say NLT



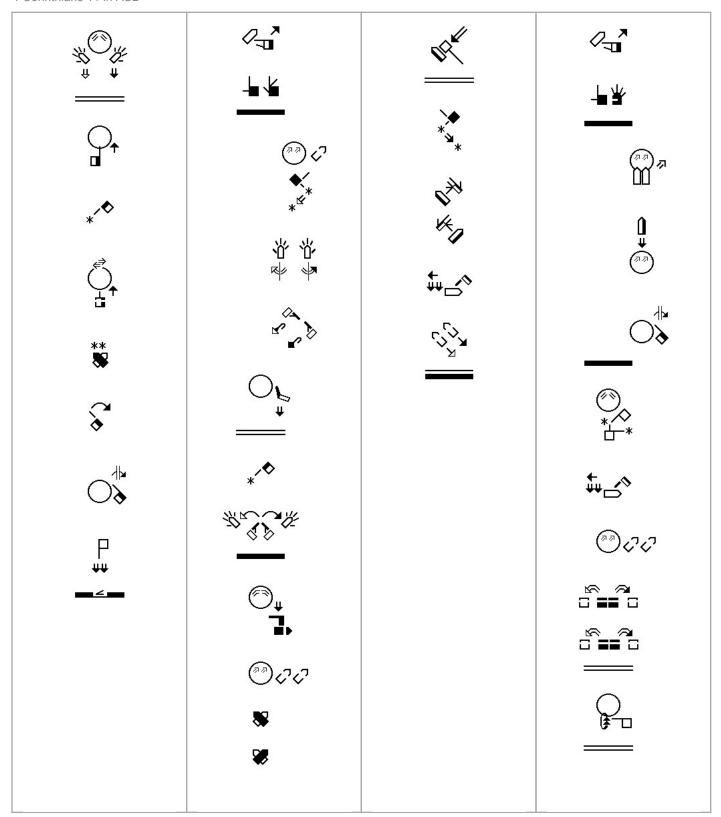
that we have no other custom than this, and neither do God's other churches. Verse 17. But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together. Verse 18. First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it. NLT



Verse 19. But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized! Verse 20. When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper. Verse 21. For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others.



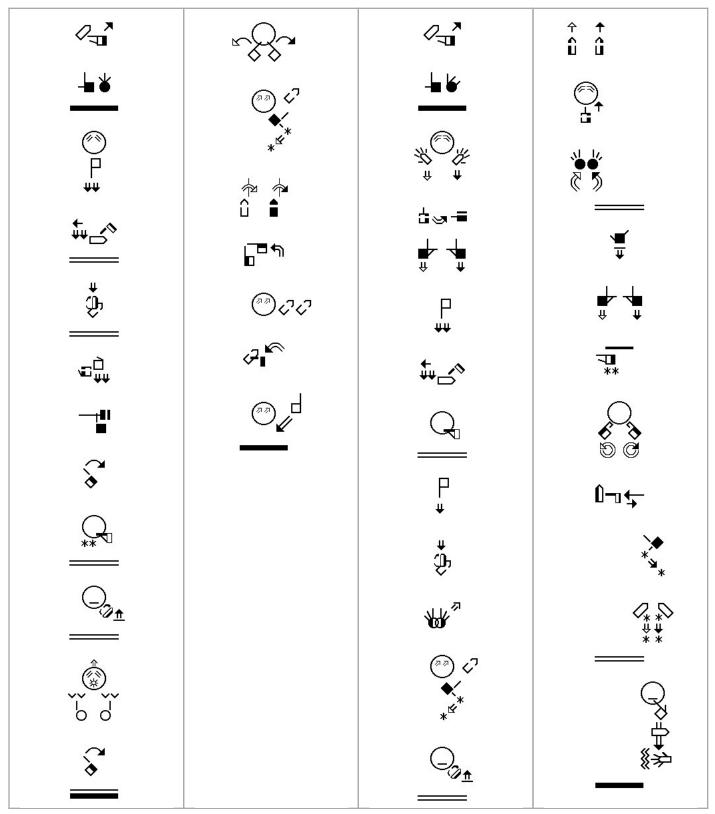
As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. Verse 22. What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? NLT



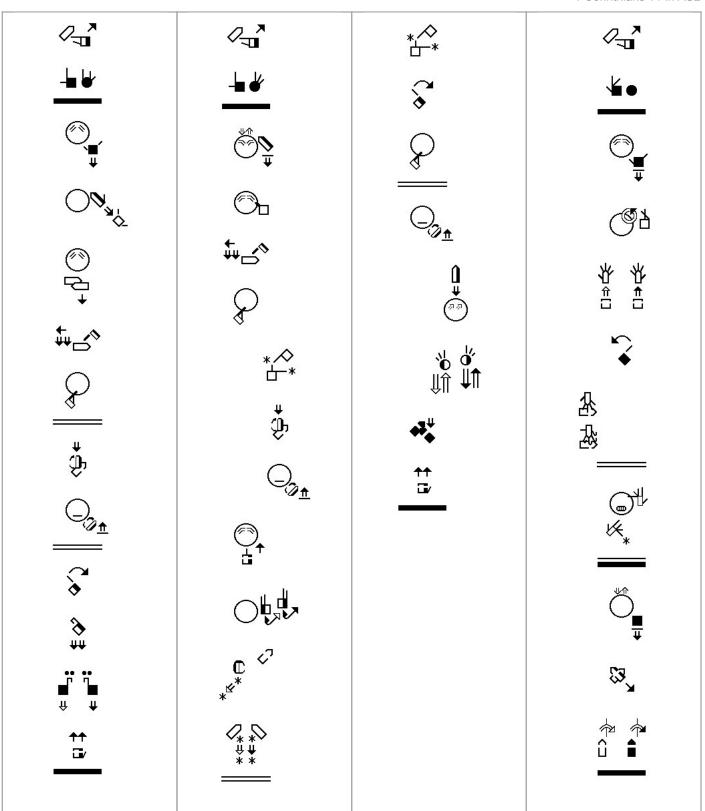
Well, I certainly will not praise you for this! Verse 23. For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread Verse 24. and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said,

	1 Corinthians 11 in ASL

"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." Verse 25. In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people -- an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it."

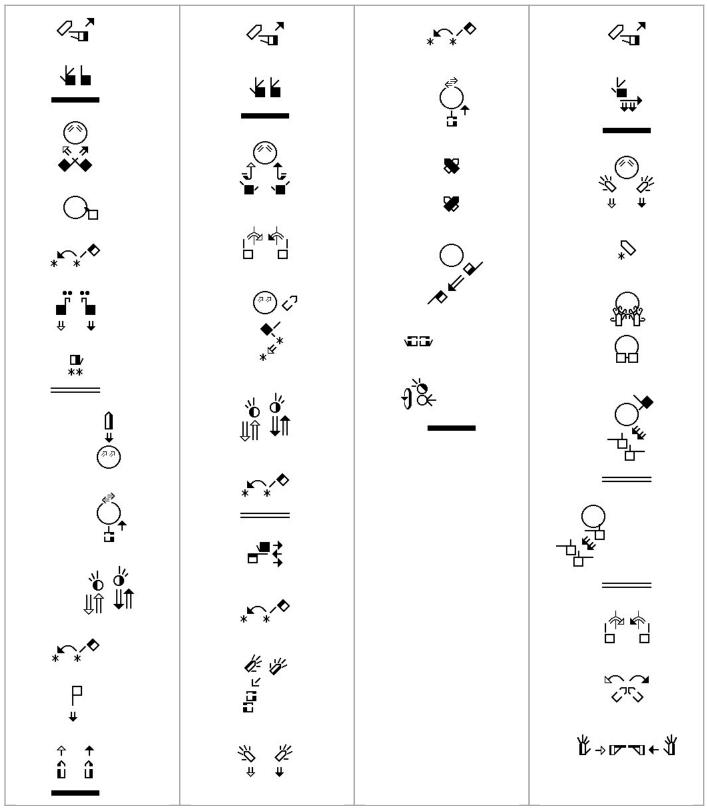


Verse 26. For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again. Verse 27. So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. NLT



Verse 28. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. Verse 29. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. Verse 30. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

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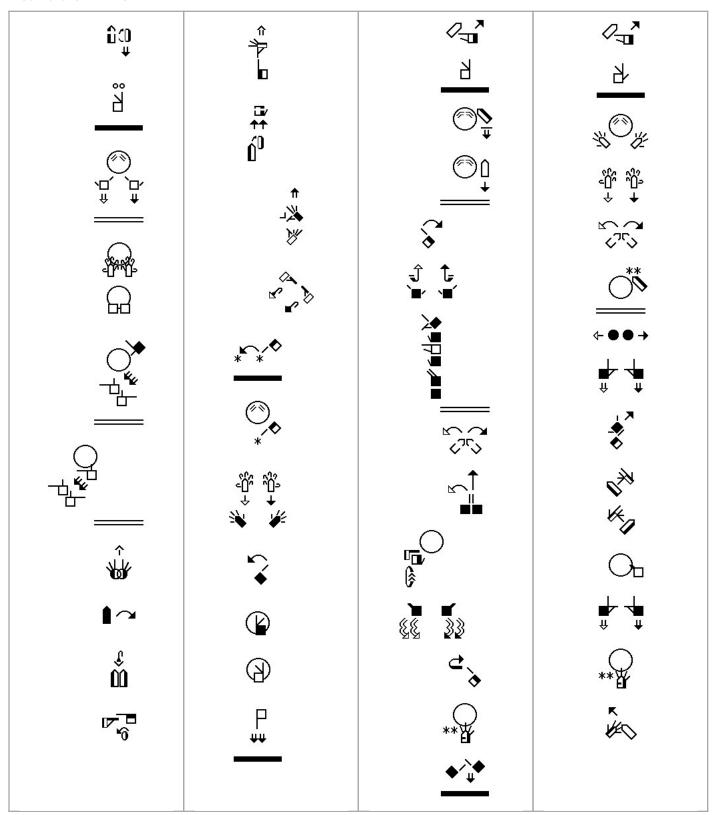


Verse 31. But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. Verse 32. Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world. Verse 33. So, my dear brothers and sisters, when you gather

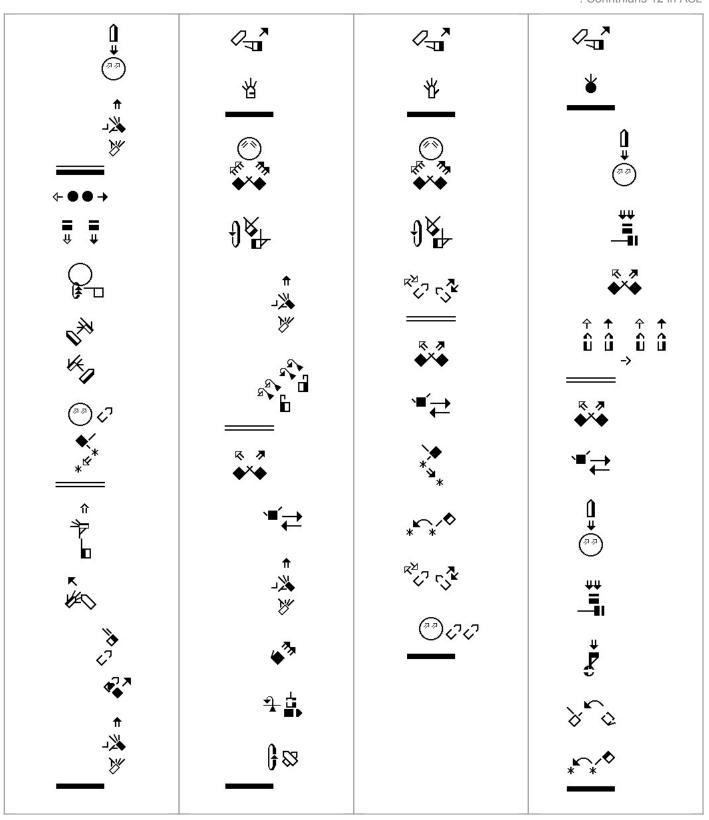
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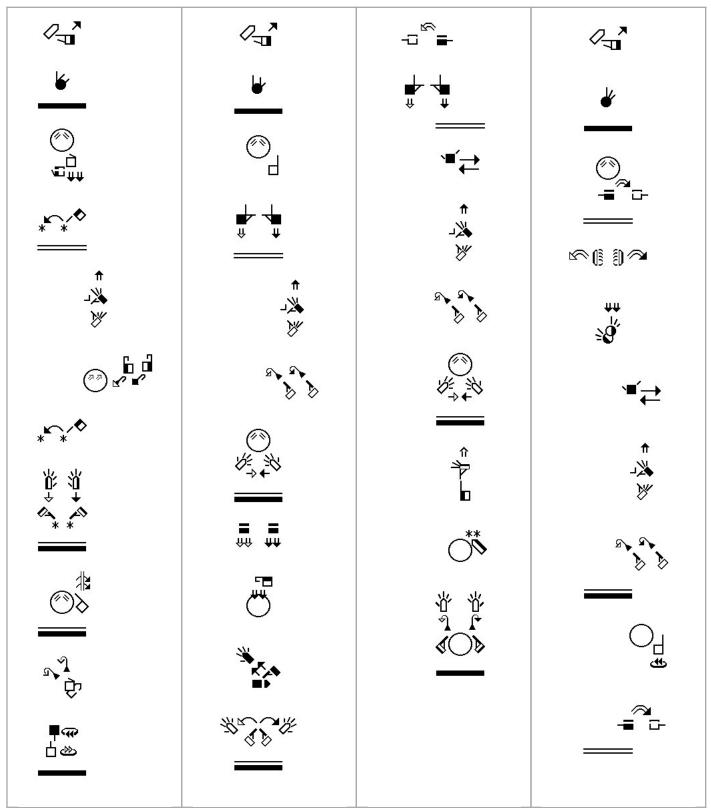
for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other. Verse 34. If you are really hungry, eat at home so you won't bring judgment upon yourselves when you meet together. I'll give you instructions about the other matters after I arrive.



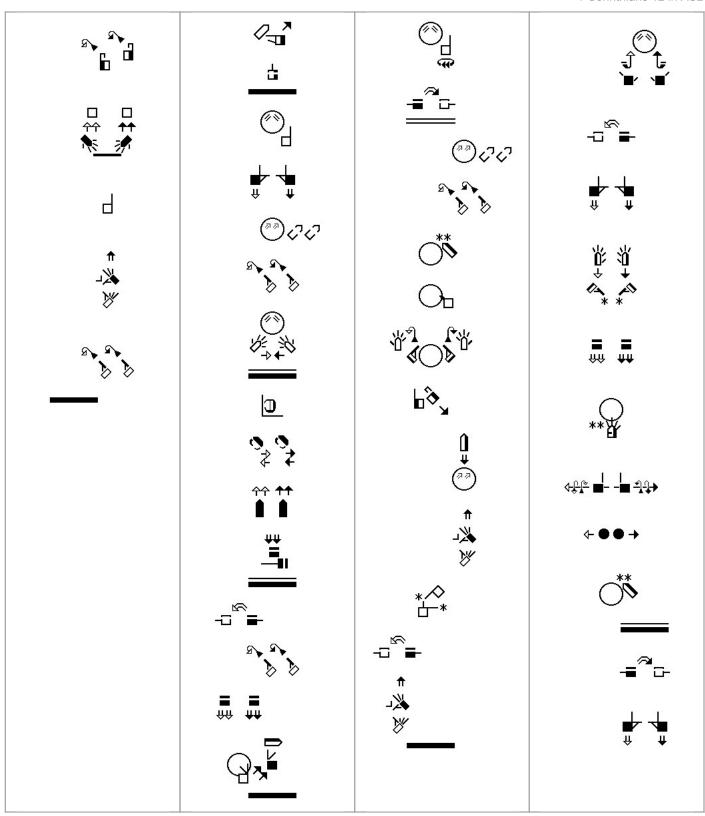
Chapter 12. Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. Verse 2. You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. Verse 3. So I want you know that no one speaking by



the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. Verse 4. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. Verse 5. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. Verse 6. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.



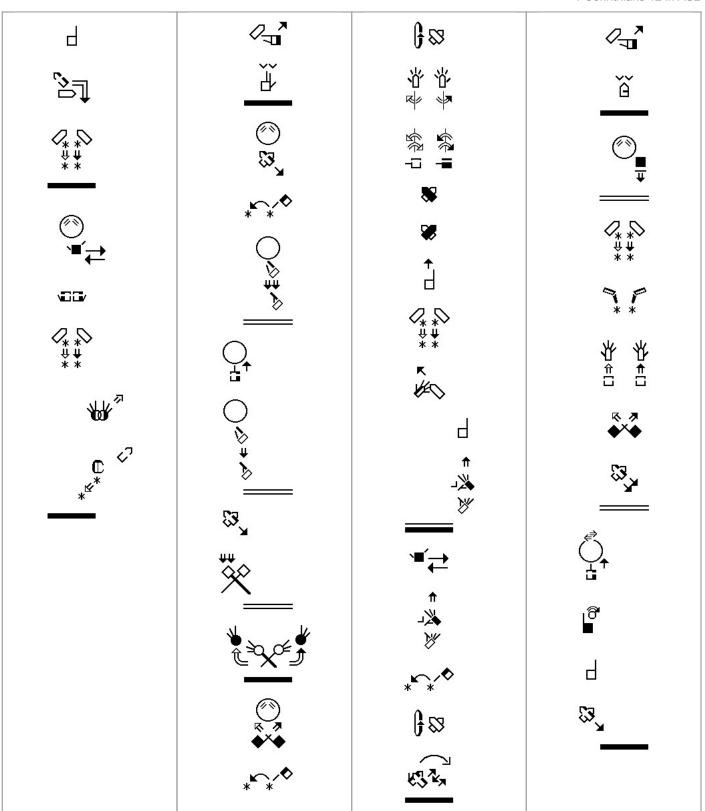
Verse 7. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. Verse 8. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. Verse 9. The same spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else



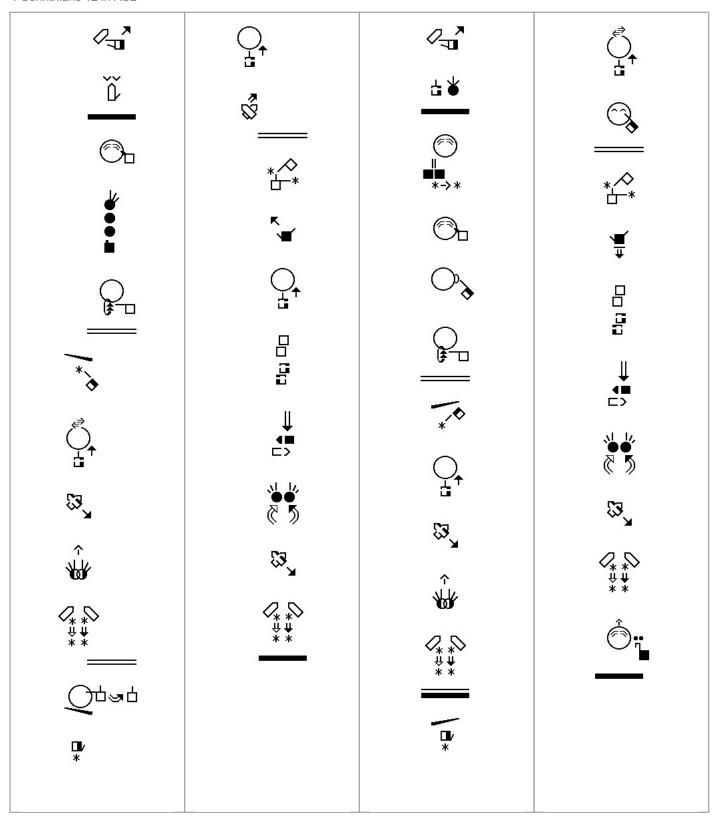
the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. Verse 10. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another

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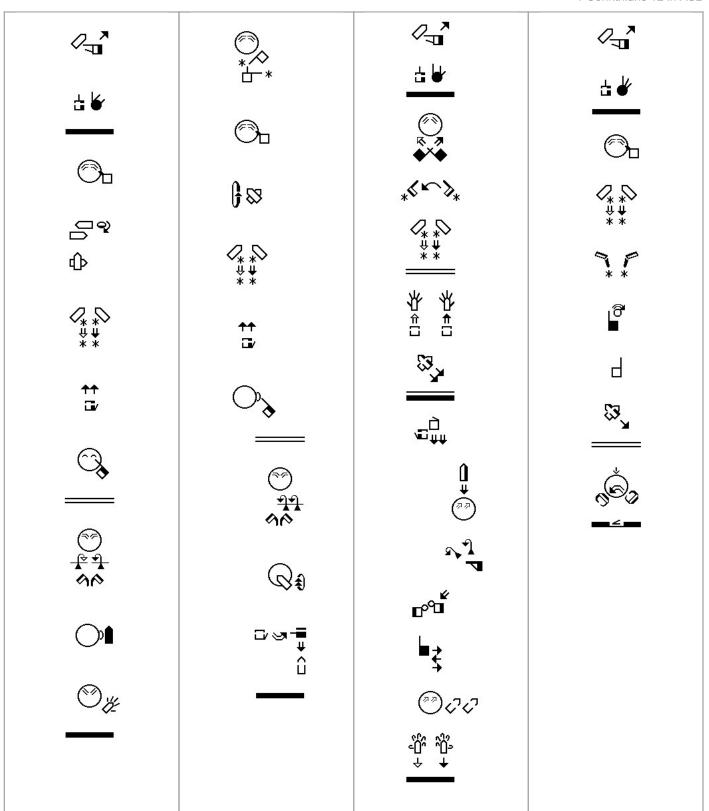
is given the ability to interpret what is being said. Verse 11. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. Verse 12. The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up NLT



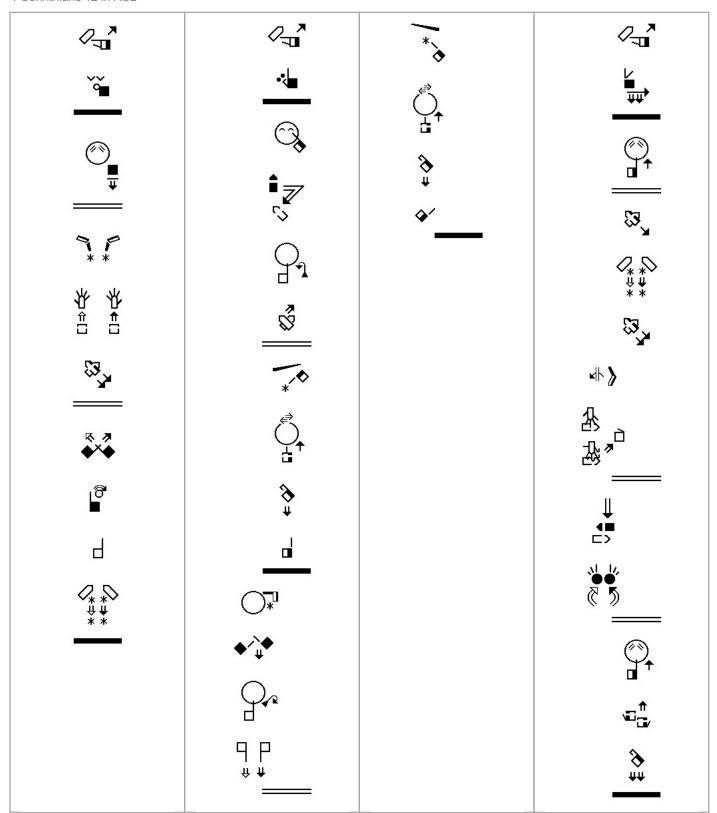
one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Verse 13. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Verse 14. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.



Verse 15. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. Verse 16. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? NLT

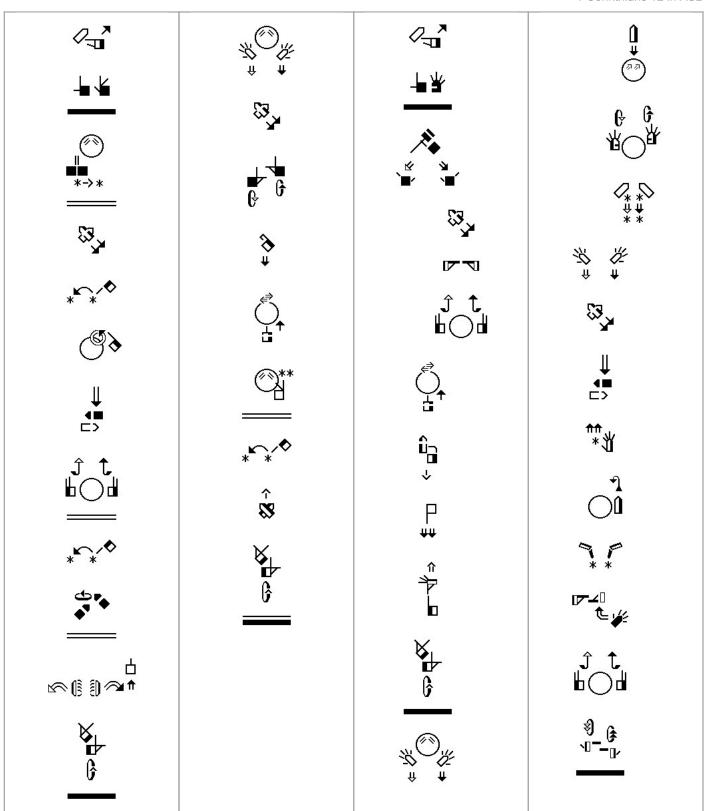


Verse 17. If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? Verse 18. But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. Verse 19. How strange a body would be if it had only one part!

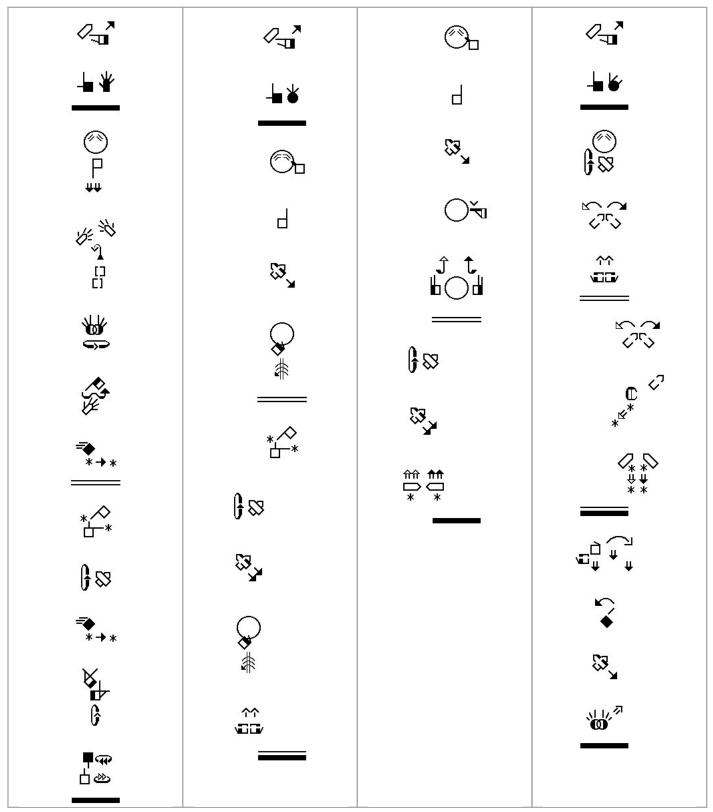


Verse 20. Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. Verse 21. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." Verse 22. In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.

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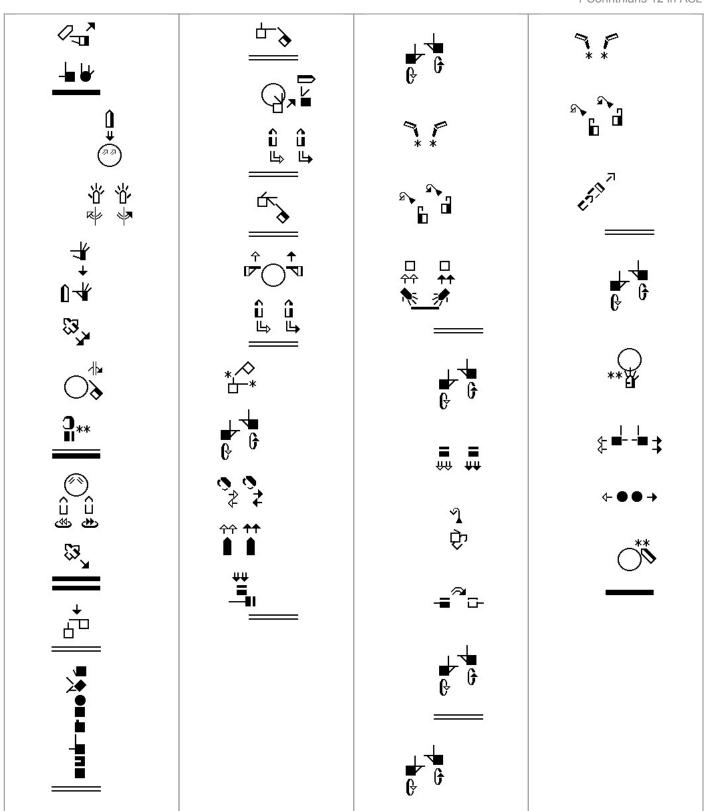


Verse 23. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, Verse 24. while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.

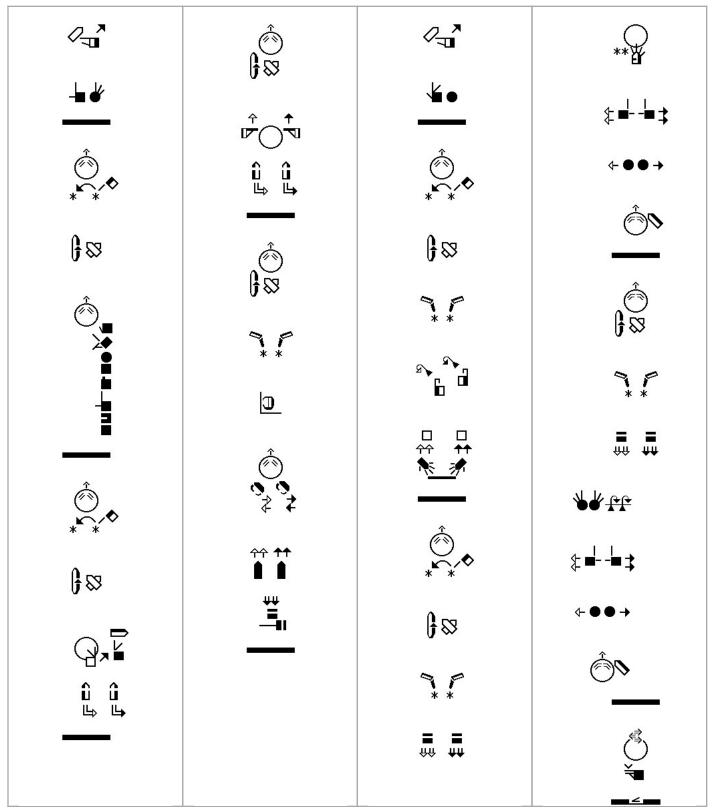


Verse 25. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. Verse 26. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. Verse 27. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

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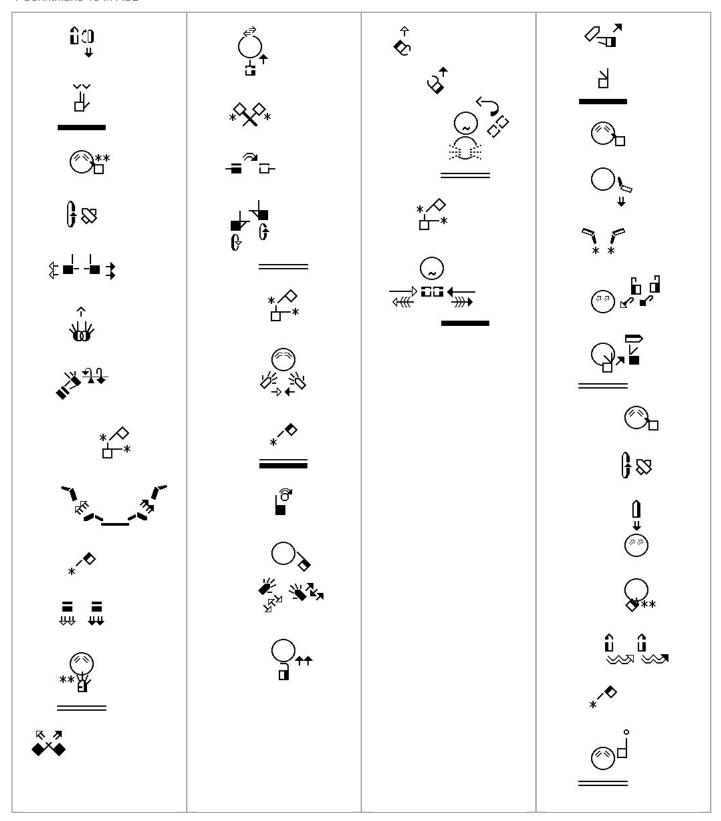


Verse 28. Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.

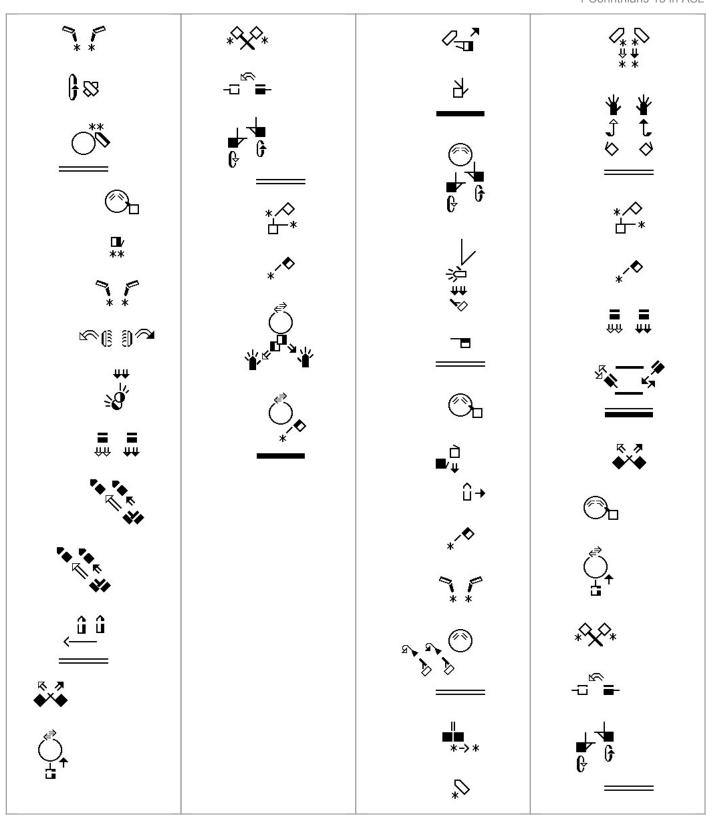


Verse 29. Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Verse 30. Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!

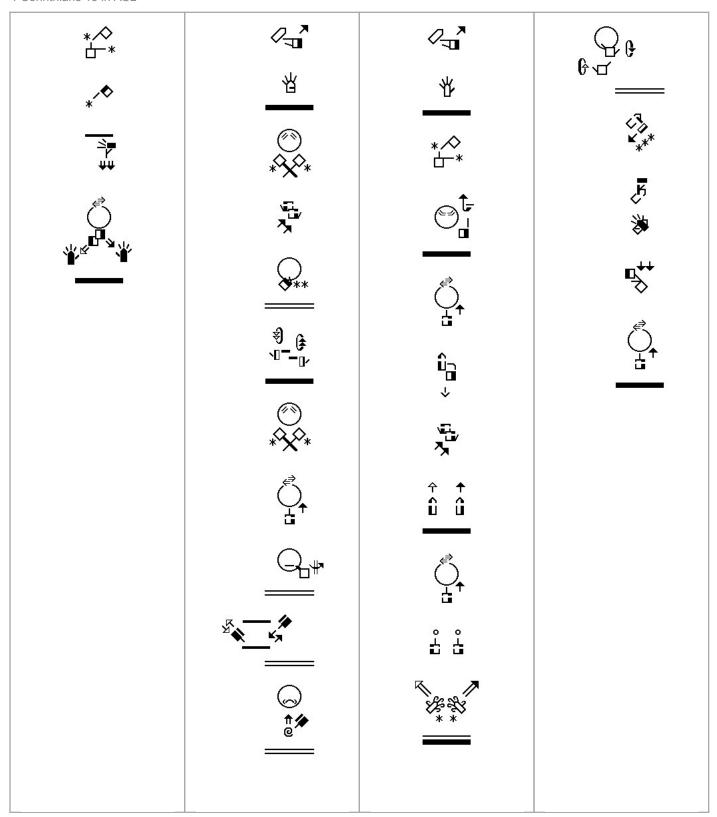
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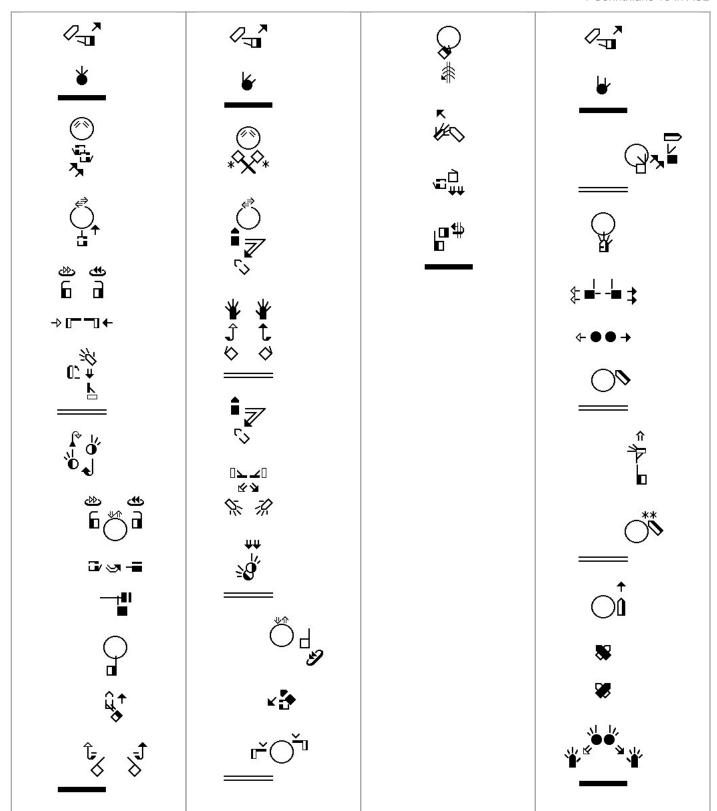


Chapter 13. If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. Verse 2. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans

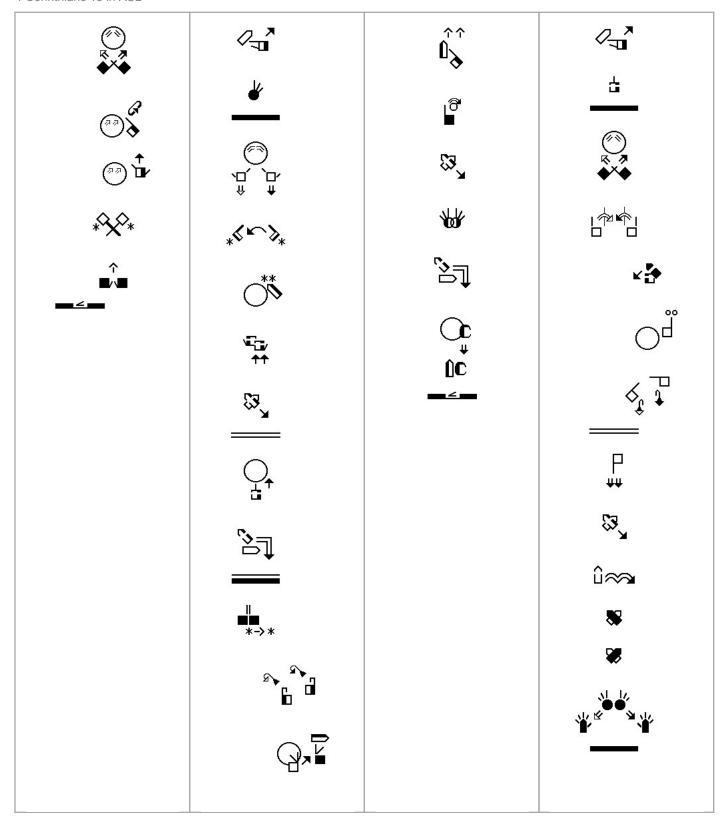


and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. Verse 3. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others,

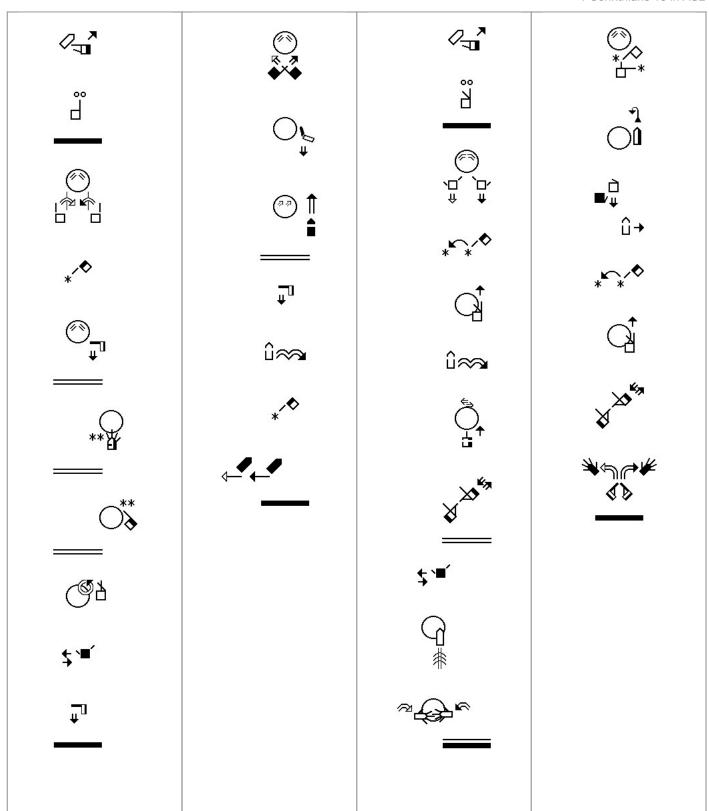




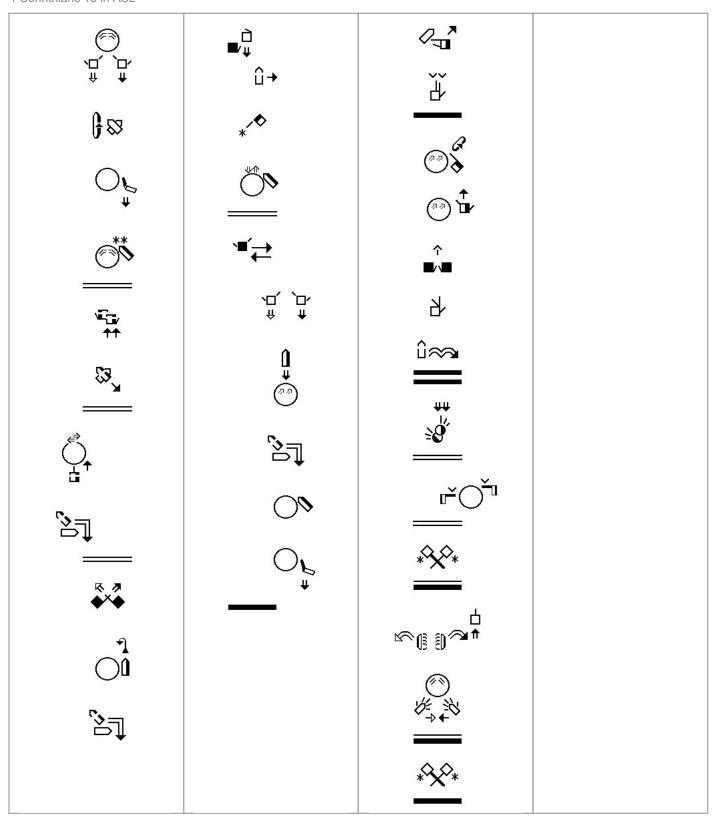
Verse 6. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Verse 7. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Verse 8. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless.



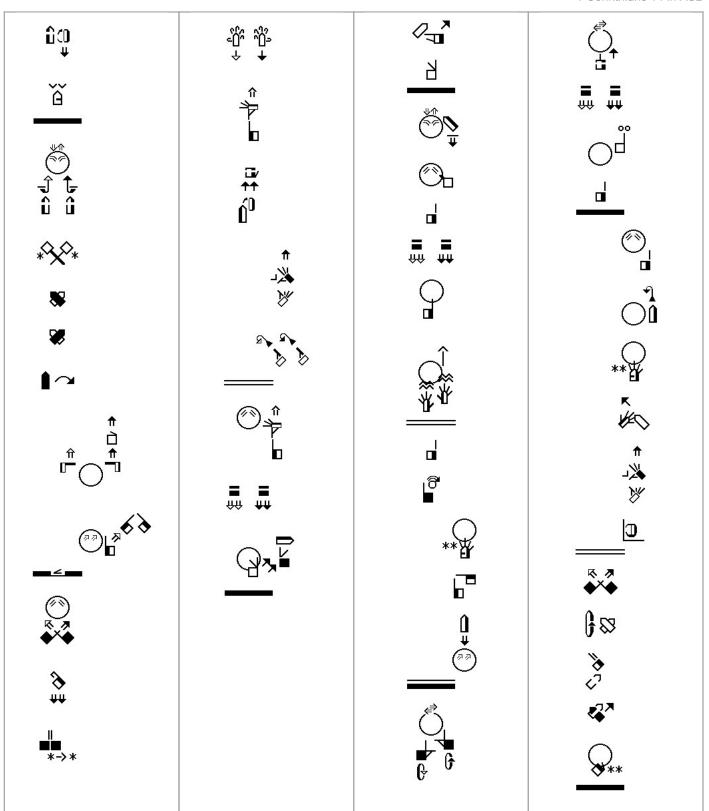
But love will last forever! Verse 9. Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! Verse 10. But when full understanding comes, these partial things will become useless.



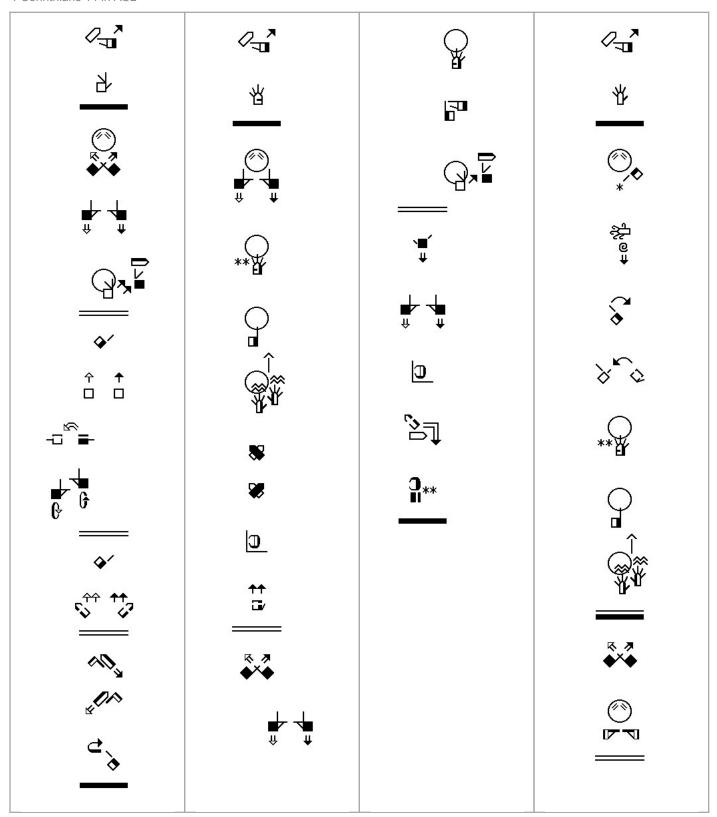
Verse 11. When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Verse 12. Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.



All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. Verse 13. Three things will last forever -- faith, hope, and love -- and the greatest of these is love.

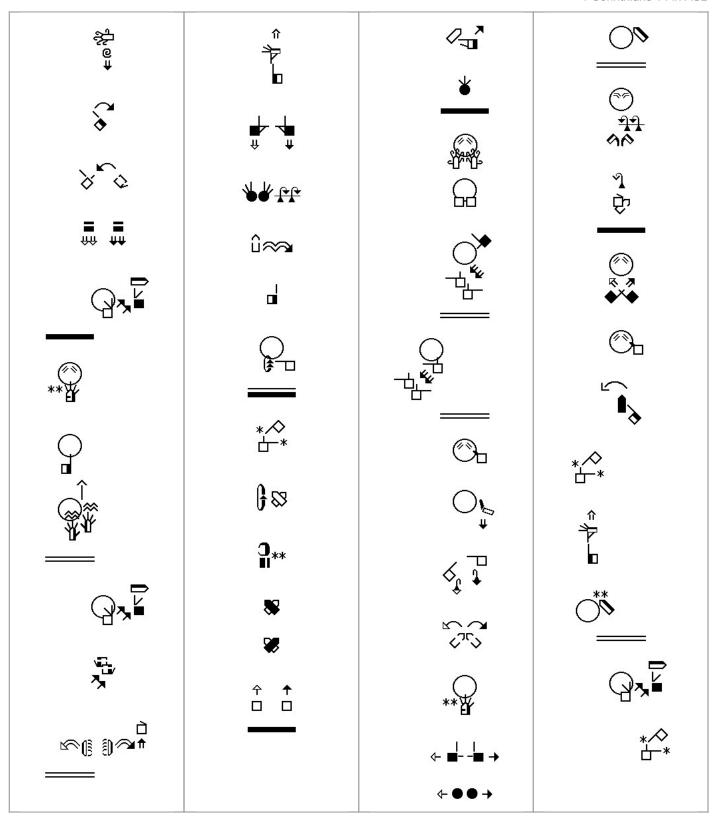


Chapter 14. Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives -- especially the ability to prophesy. Verse 2. For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious.

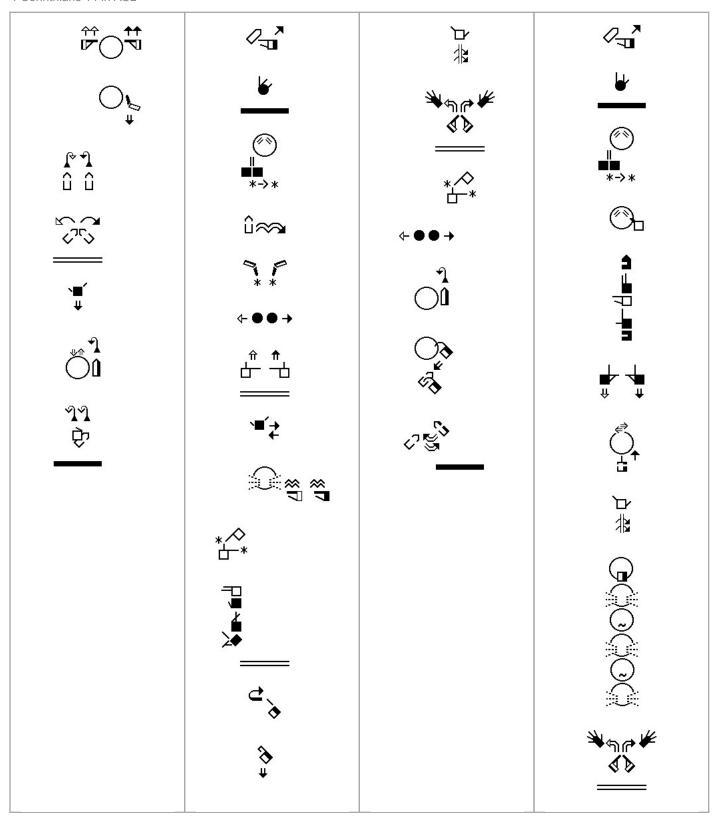


Verse 3. But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. Verse 4. A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church. Verse 5. I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more

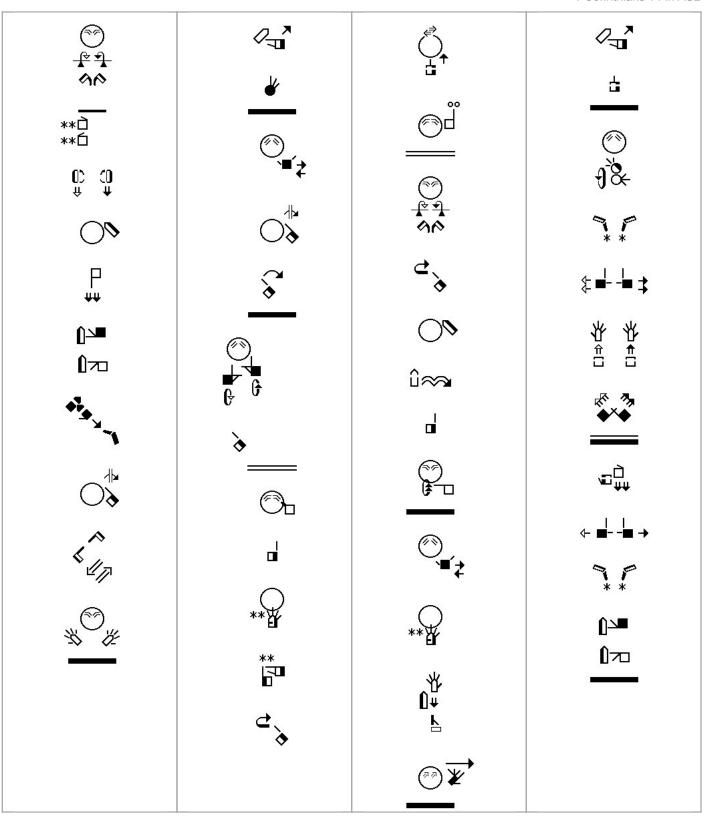
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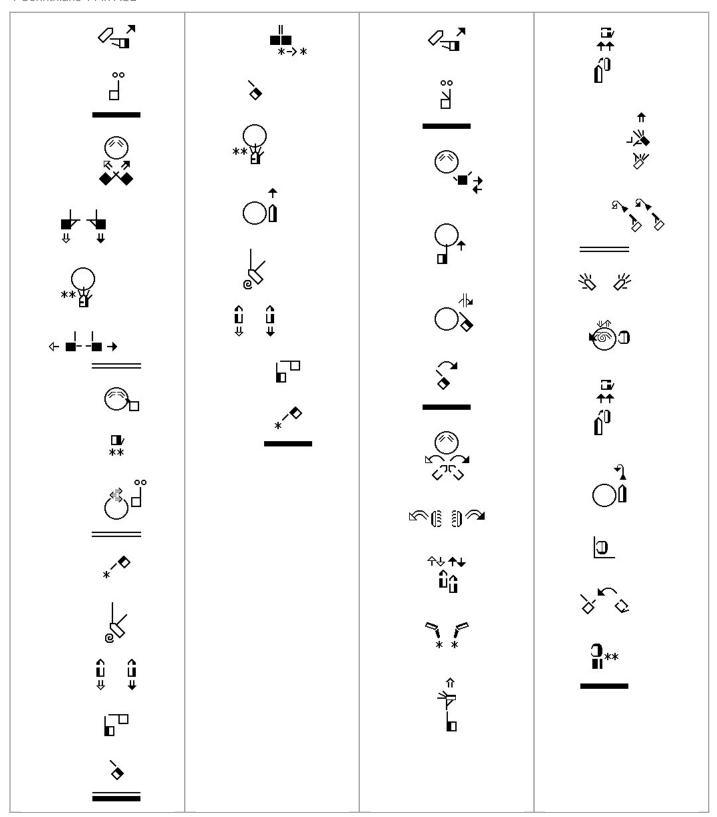
I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened. Verse 6. Dear brothers and sisters, if I should come to you speaking in an unknown language, how would that help you? But if I bring you a revelation or some special knowledge or prophesy or NLT



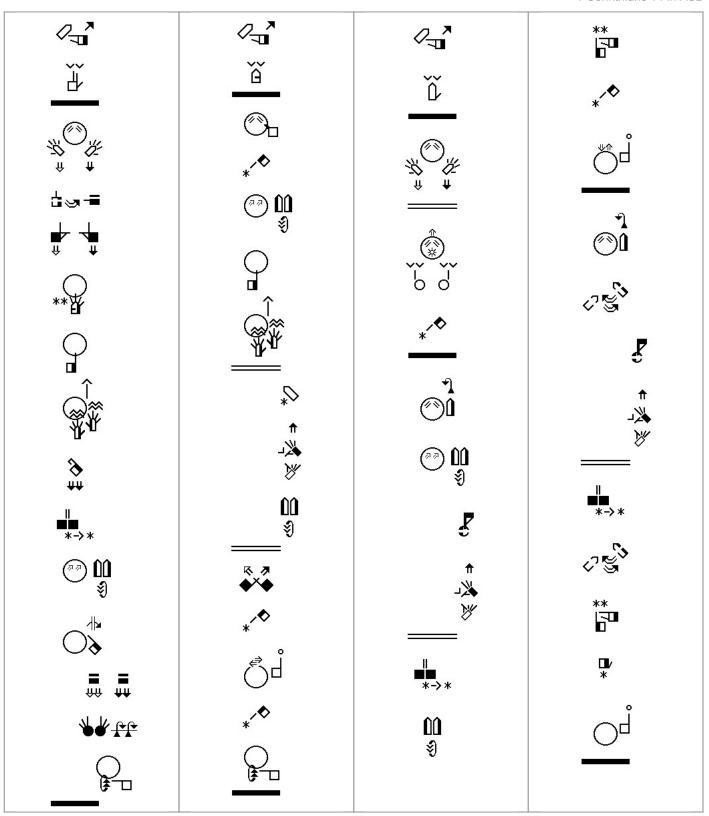
teaching, that will be helpful. Verse 7. Even lifeless instruments like the flute or the harp must play the notes clearly, or no one will recognize the melody. Verse 8. And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call,



how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? Verse 9. It's the same for you. If you speak to people in words they don't understand, how will they know what you are saying? You might as well be talking into empty space. Verse 10. There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning.

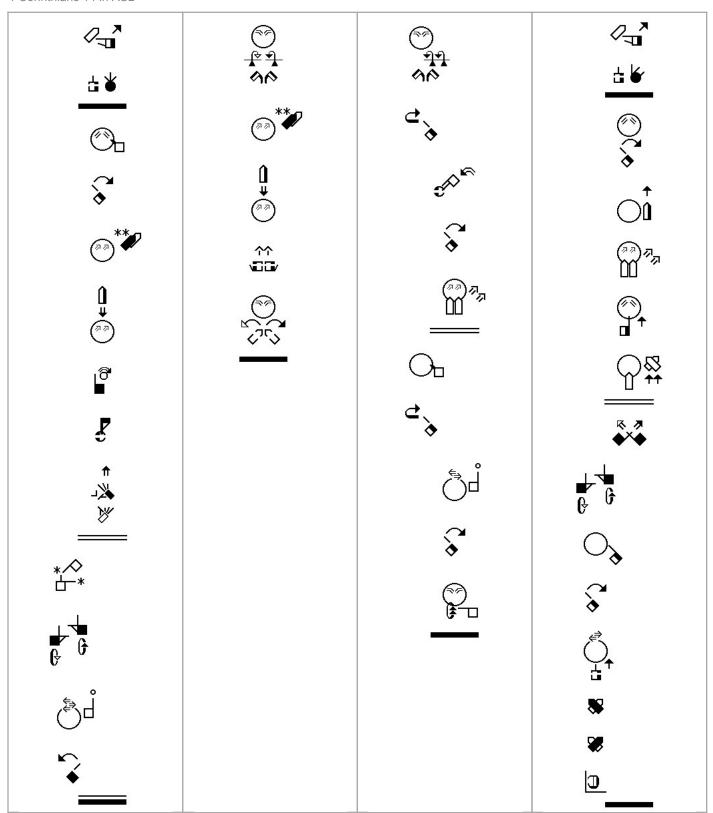


Verse 11. But if I don't understand a language, I will be a foreigner to someone who speaks it, and the one who speaks it will be a foreigner to me. Verse 12. And the same is true for you. Since you are so eager to have the special abilities the Spirit gives, seek those that will strengthen the whole church.

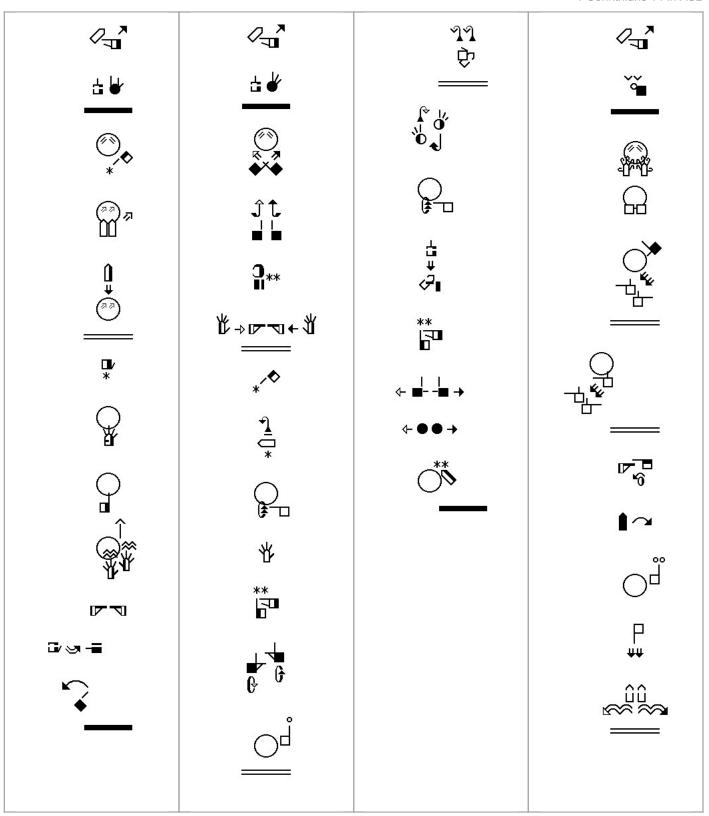


Verse 13. So anyone who speaks in tongues should pray also for the ability to interpret what has been said. Verse 14. For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. Verse 15. Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand.

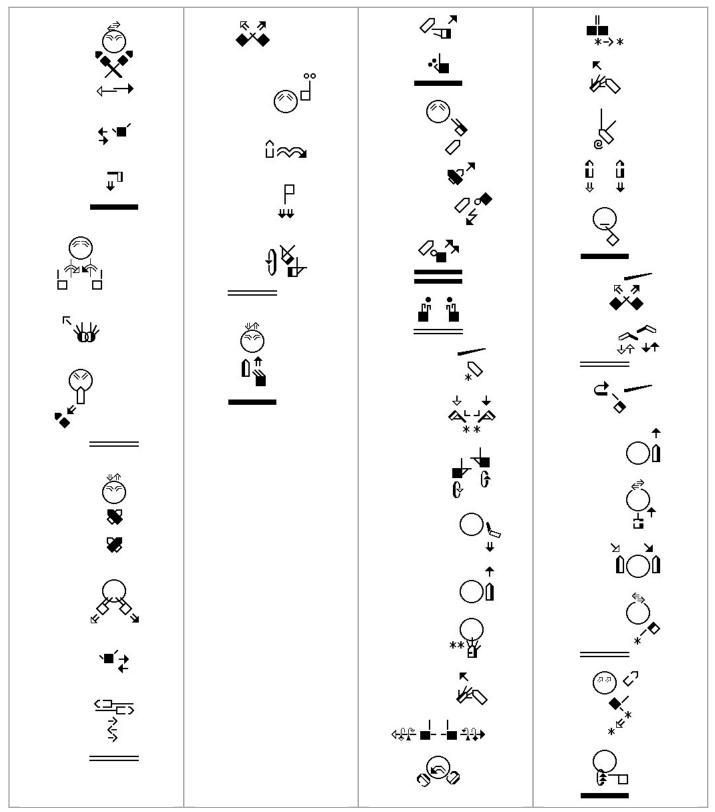
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Verse 16. For if you praise God only in the spirit, how can those who don't understand you praise God along with you? How can they join you in giving thanks when they don't understand what you are saying? Verse 17. You will be giving thanks very well, but it won't strengthen the people who hear you.

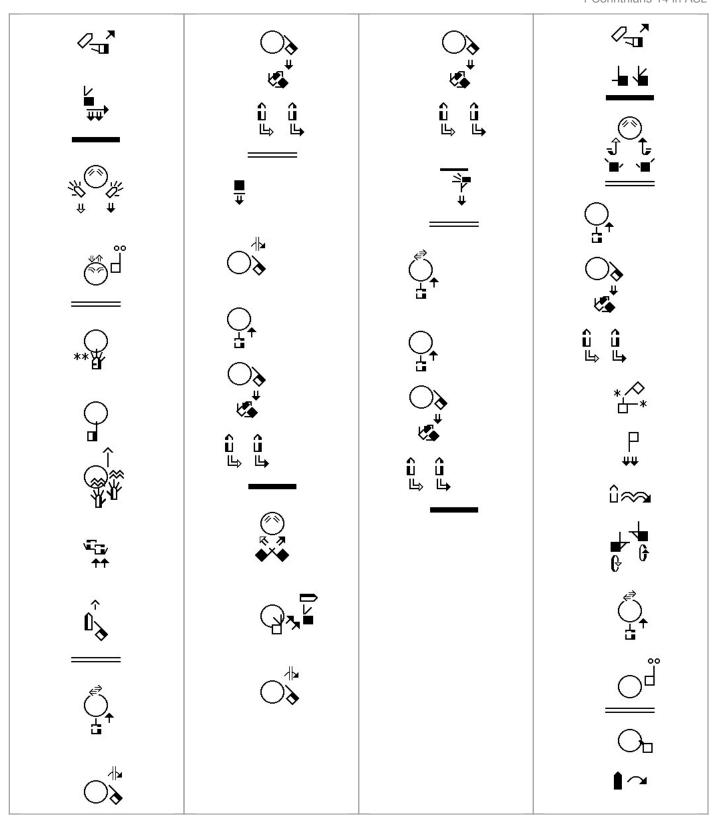


Verse 18. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you. Verse 19. But in a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language. Verse 20. Dear brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your understanding of these things.

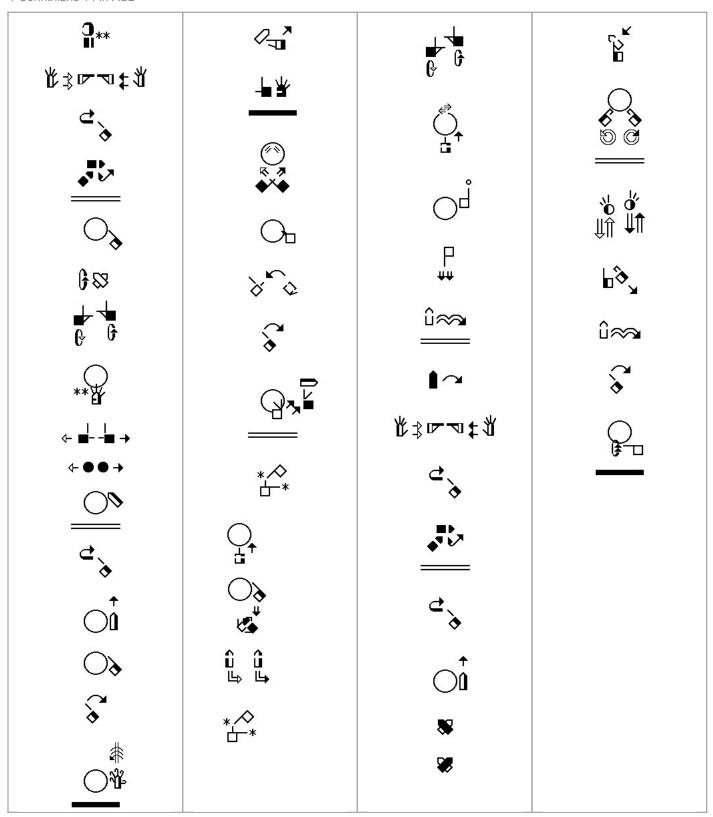


Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind. Verse 21. It is written in the Scriptures: "I will speak to my own people through strange languages and through the lips of foreigners. But even then, they will not listen to me," says the LORD.

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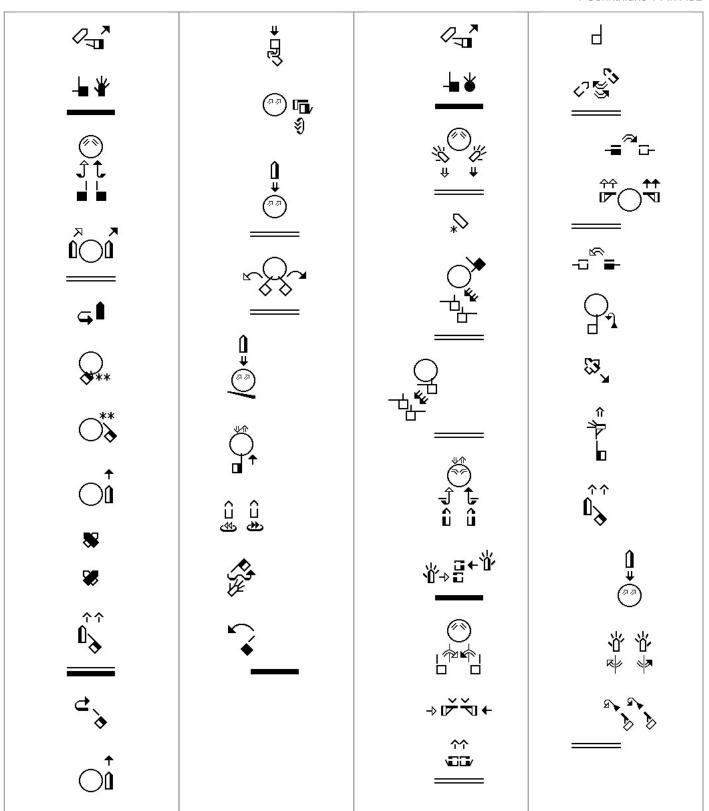


Verse 22. So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for the benefit of believers, not unbelievers. Verse 23. Even so, if unbelievers or people who don't understand these things

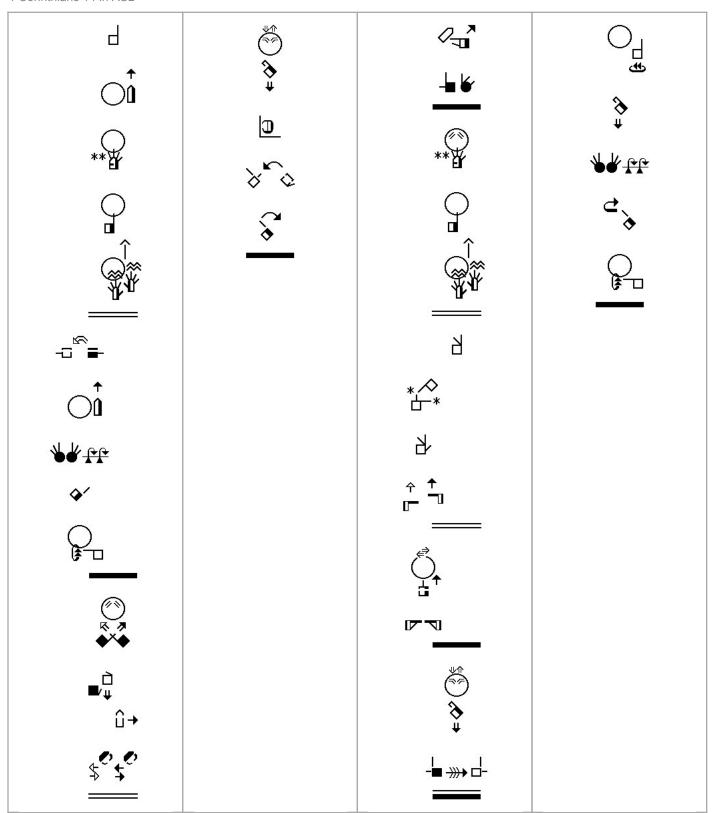


come into your church meeting and hear everyone speaking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy. Verse 24. But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say.

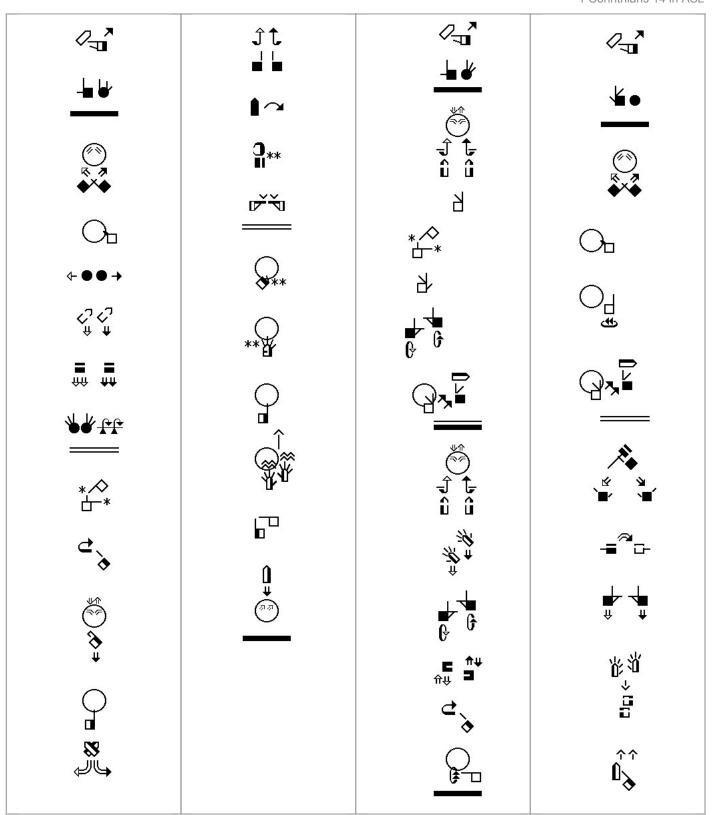
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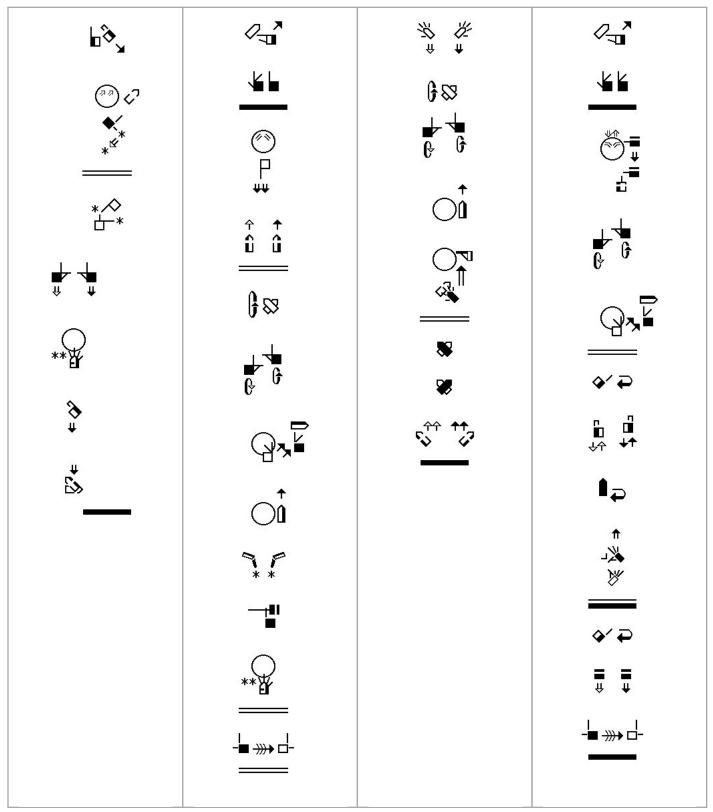
Verse 25. As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you." Verse 26. Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given,



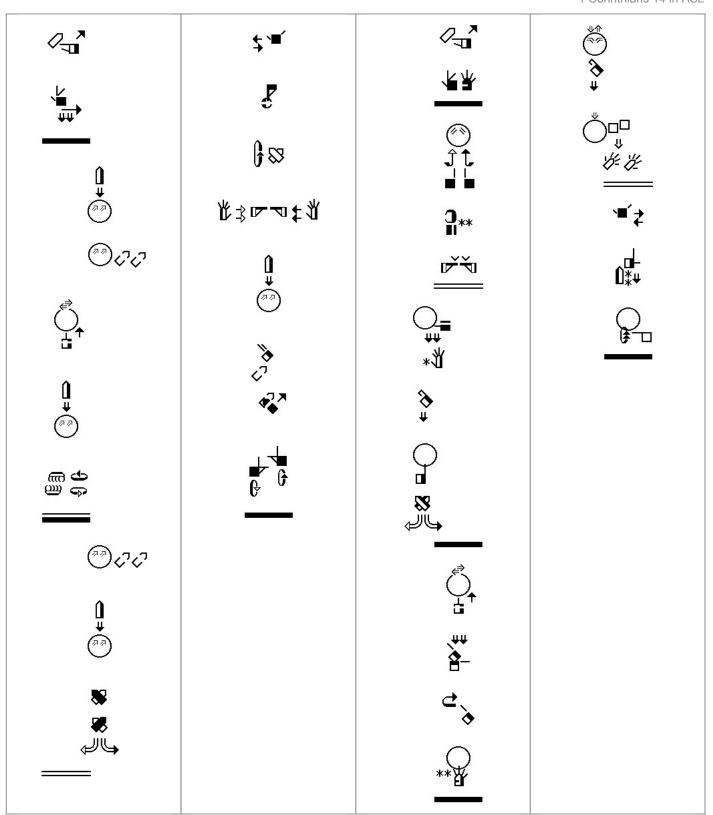
one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you. Verse 27. No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. NLT



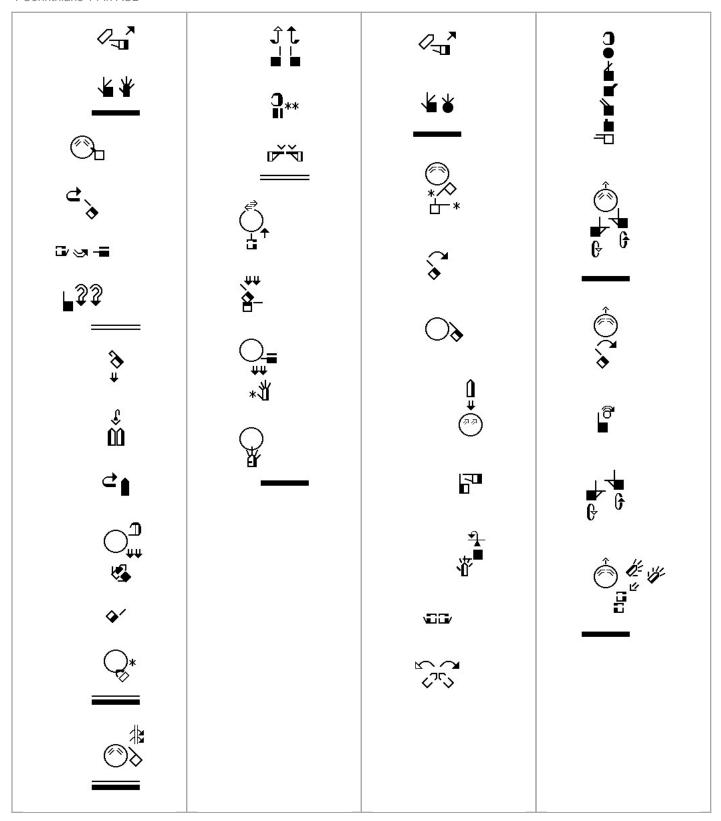
Verse 28. But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately. Verse 29. Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. Verse 30. But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation



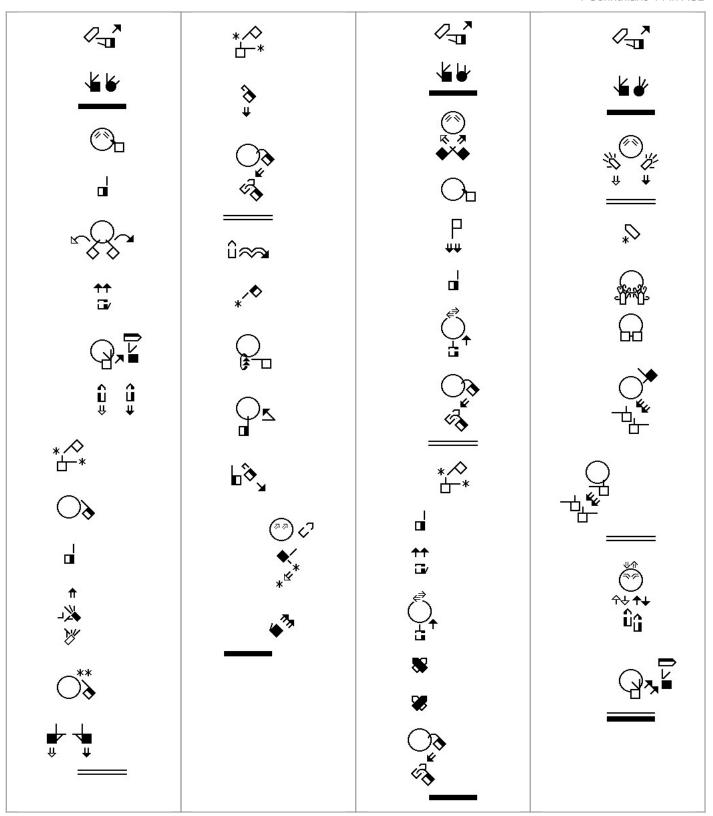
from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. Verse 31. In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. Verse 32. Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns.



Verse 33. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people. Verse 34. Women should be silent during the church meetings. It is not proper for them to speak. They should be submissive, just as the law says.

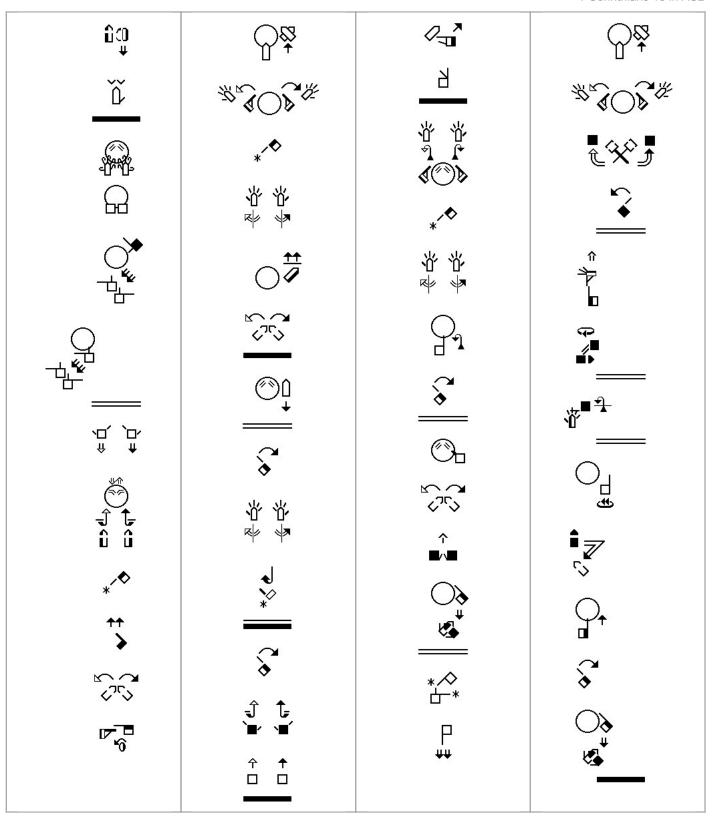


Verse 35. If they have any questions, they should ask their husbands at home, for it is improper for women to speak in church meetings. Verse 36. Or do you think God's word originated with you Corinthians? Are you the only ones to whom it was given?

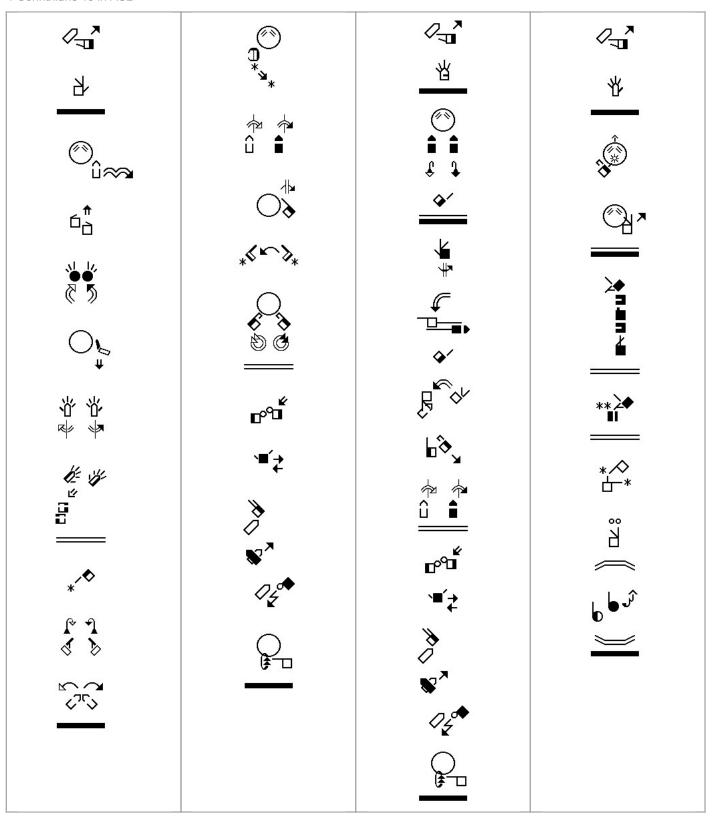


Verse 37. If you claim to be a prophet or think you are spiritual, you should recognize that what I am saying is a command from the Lord himself. Verse 38. But if you do not recognize this, you yourself will not be recognized. Verse 39. So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy,

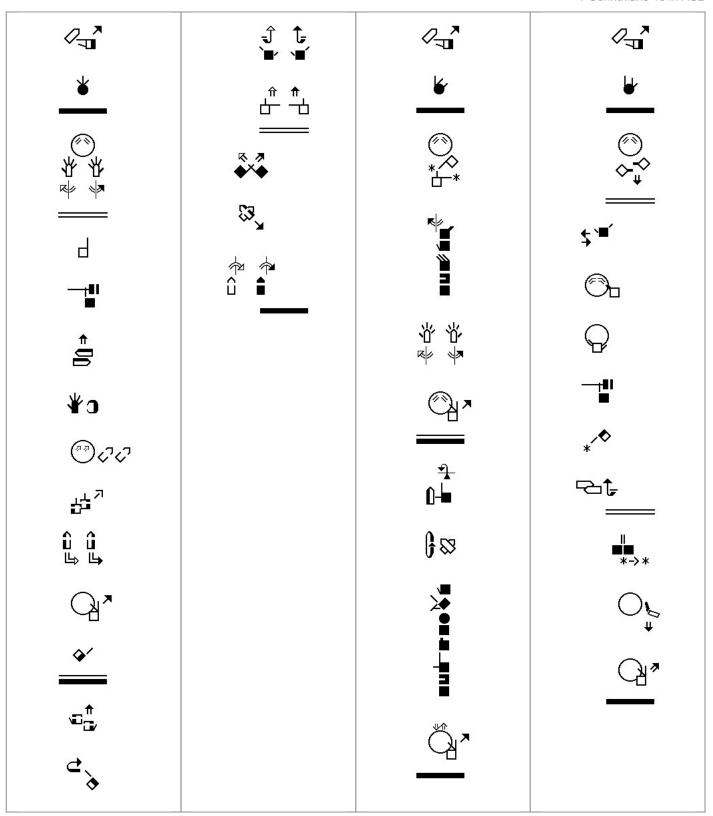
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Chapter 15. Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. Verse 2. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you -- unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. NLT

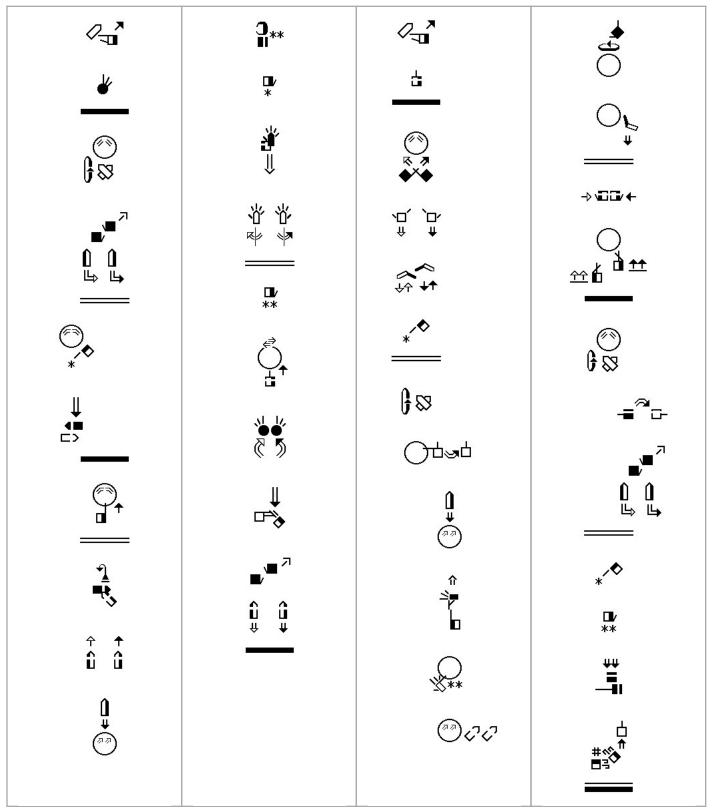


Verse 3. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. Verse 4. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. Verse 5. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

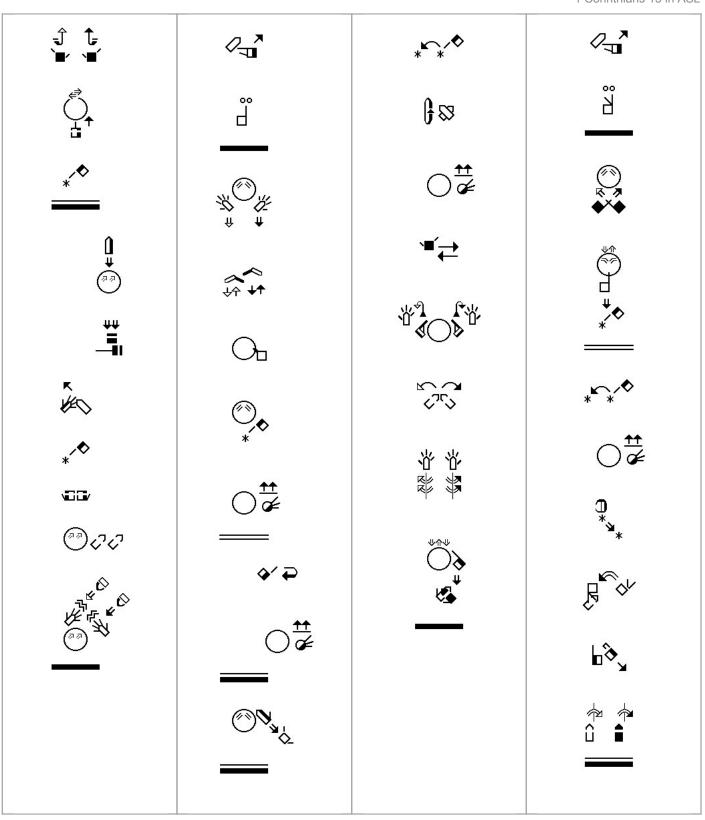


Verse 6. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Verse 7. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Verse 8. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

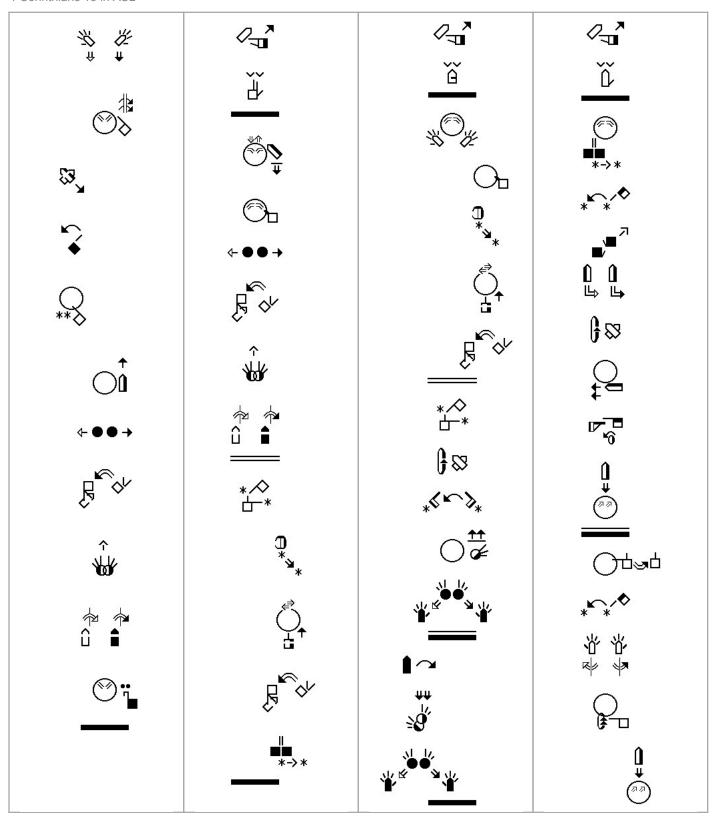
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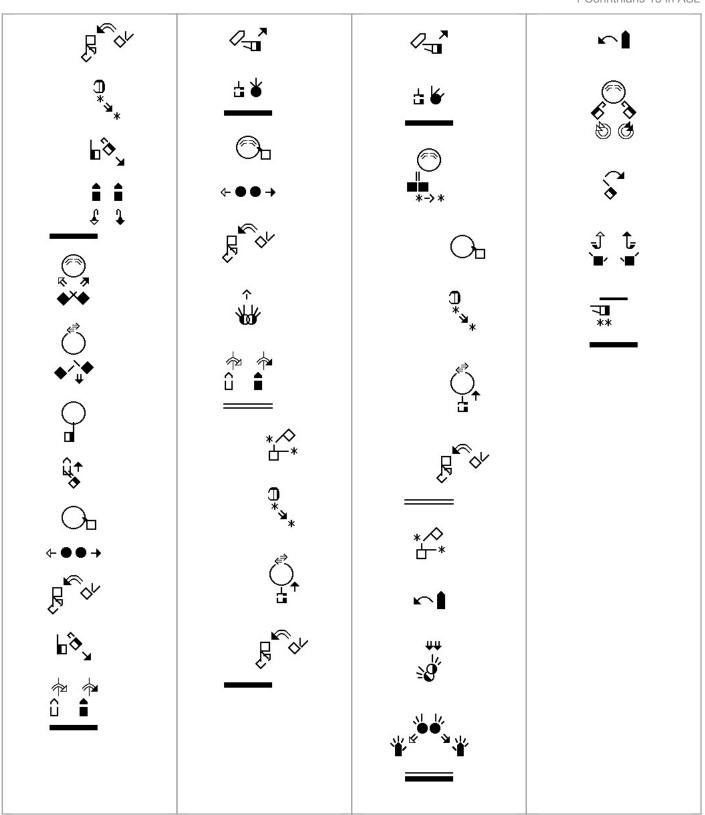
Verse 9. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. Verse 10. But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me -- and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles;



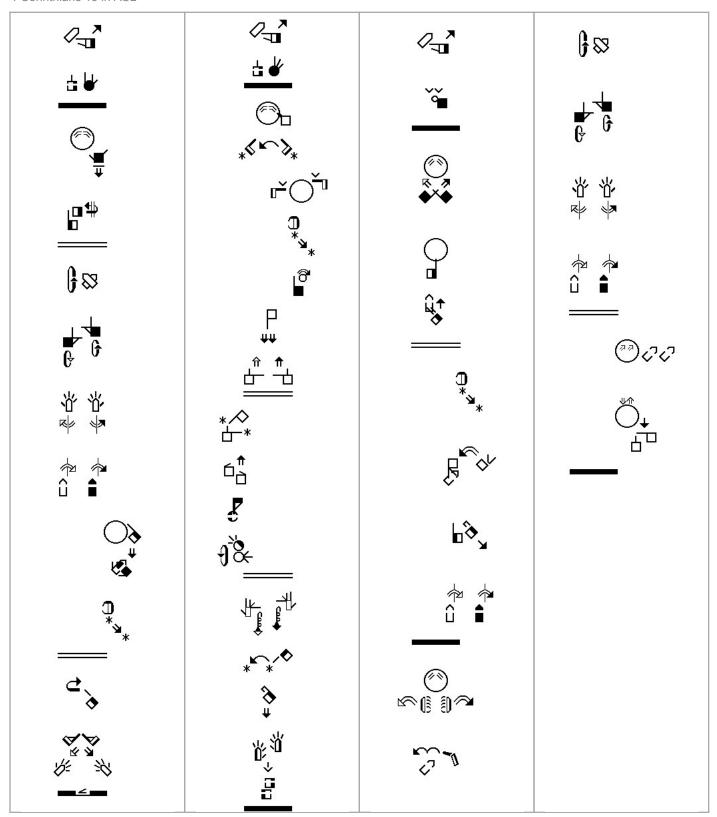
yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. Verse 11. So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed. Verse 12. But tell me this -- since we preach that Christ rose from the dead,



why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? Verse 13. For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. Verse 14. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. Verse 15. And we apostles would all be lying about God -- for we have said that God NLT

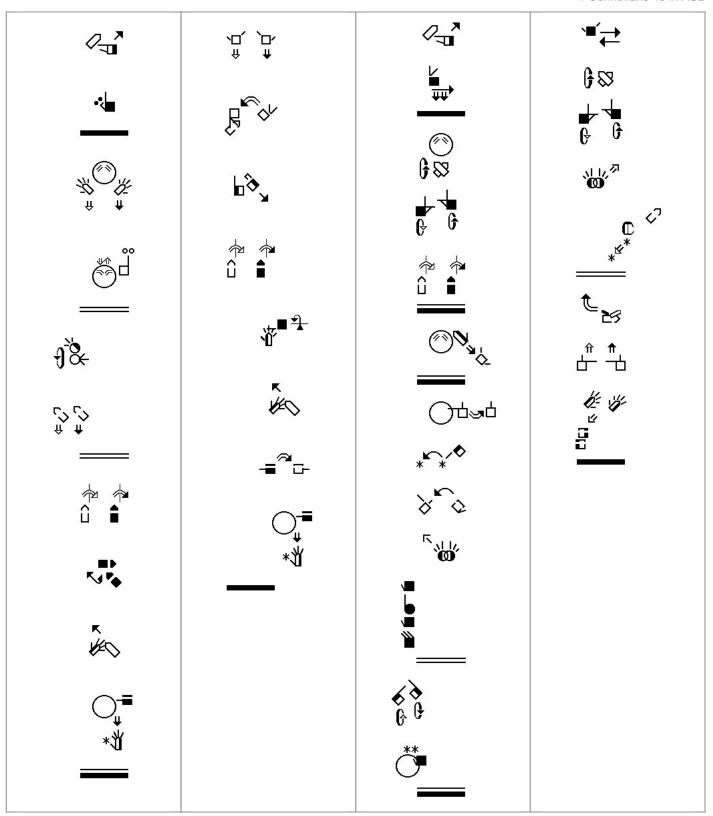


raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. Verse 16. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. Verse 17. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

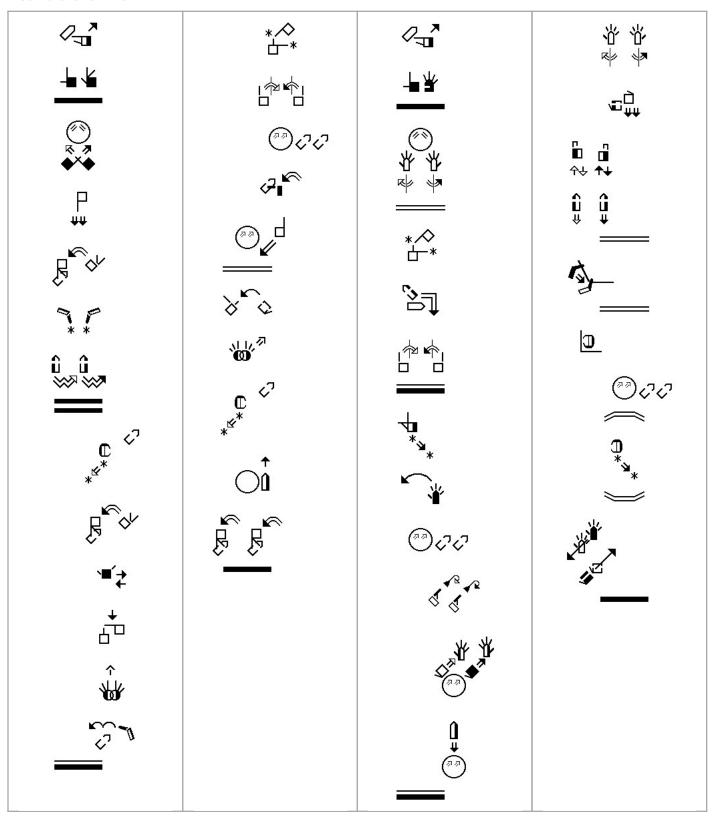


Verse 18. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! Verse 19. And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. Verse 20. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

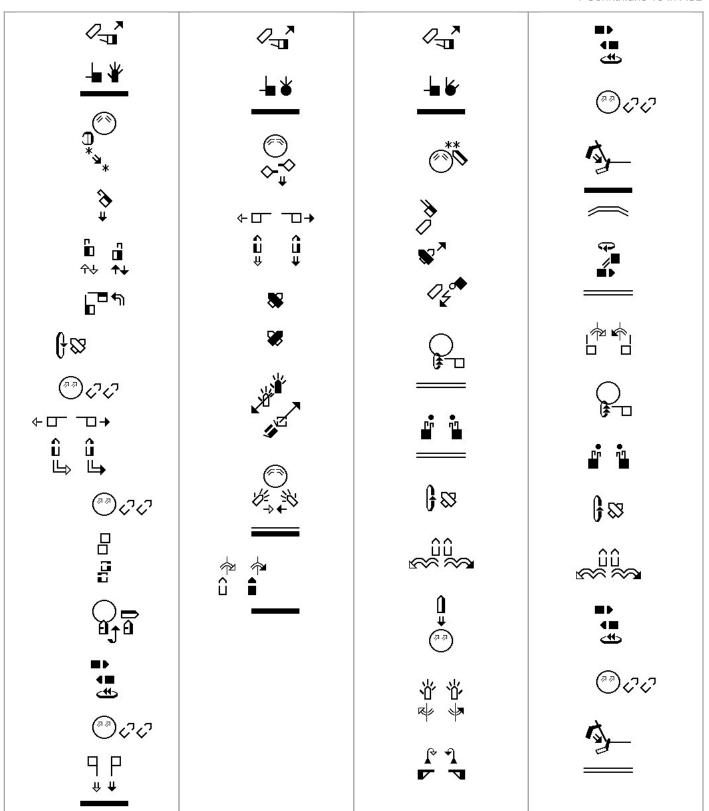
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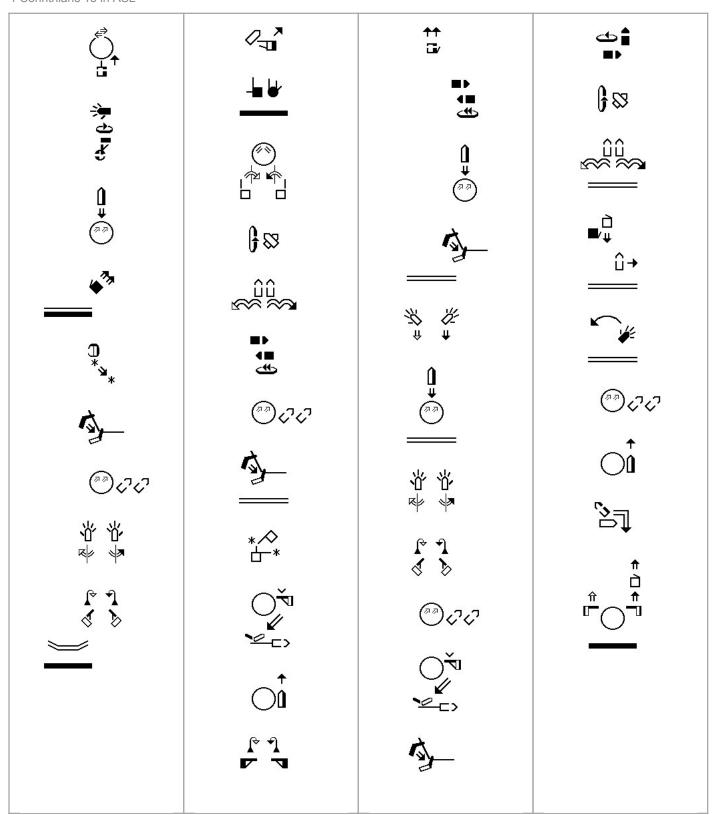
Verse 21. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Verse 22. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.



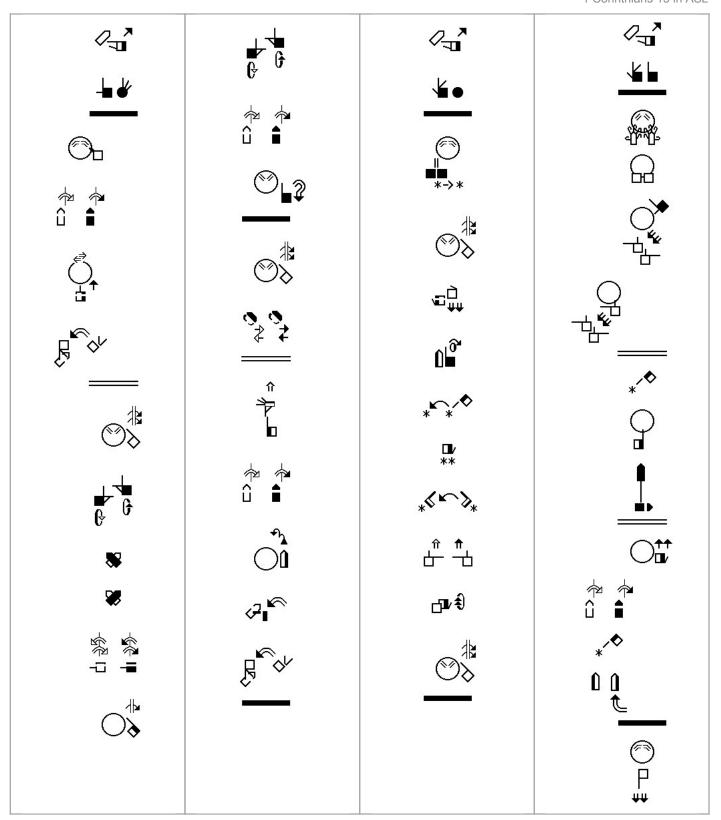
Verse 23. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. Verse 24. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power.



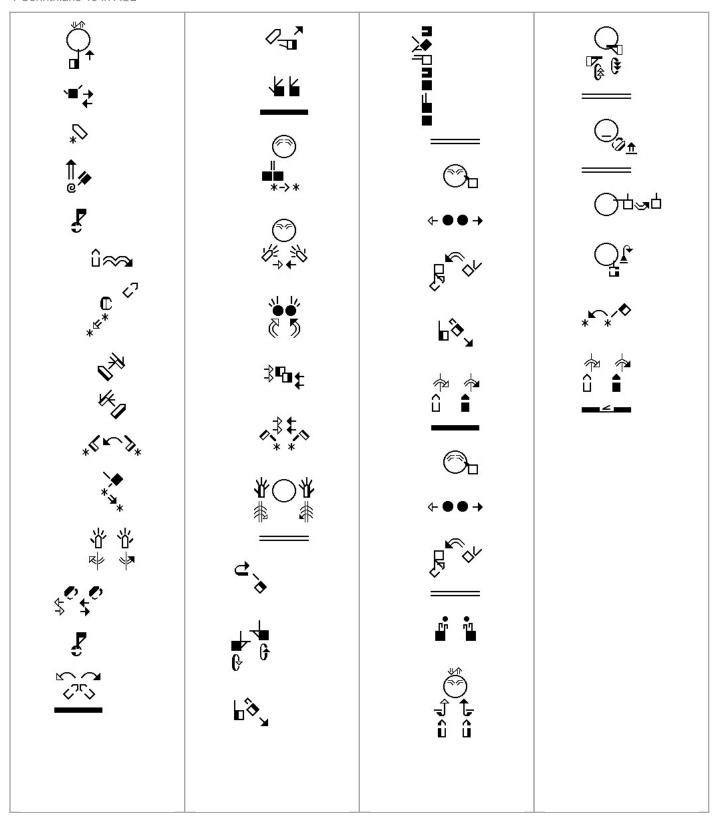
Verse 25. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. Verse 26. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Verse 27. For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under his authority." (Of course, when it says "all things are under his authority,"



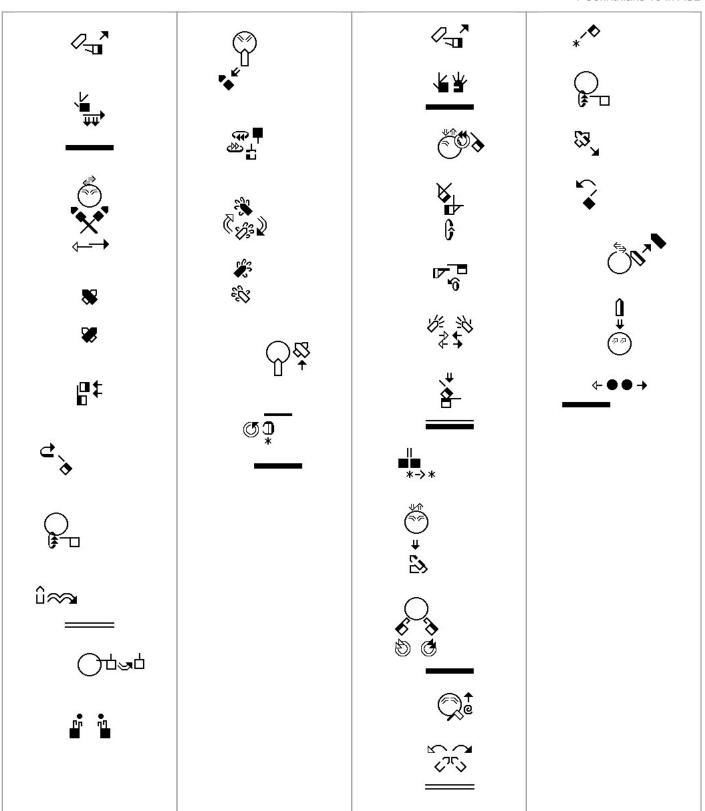
that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) Verse 28. Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.



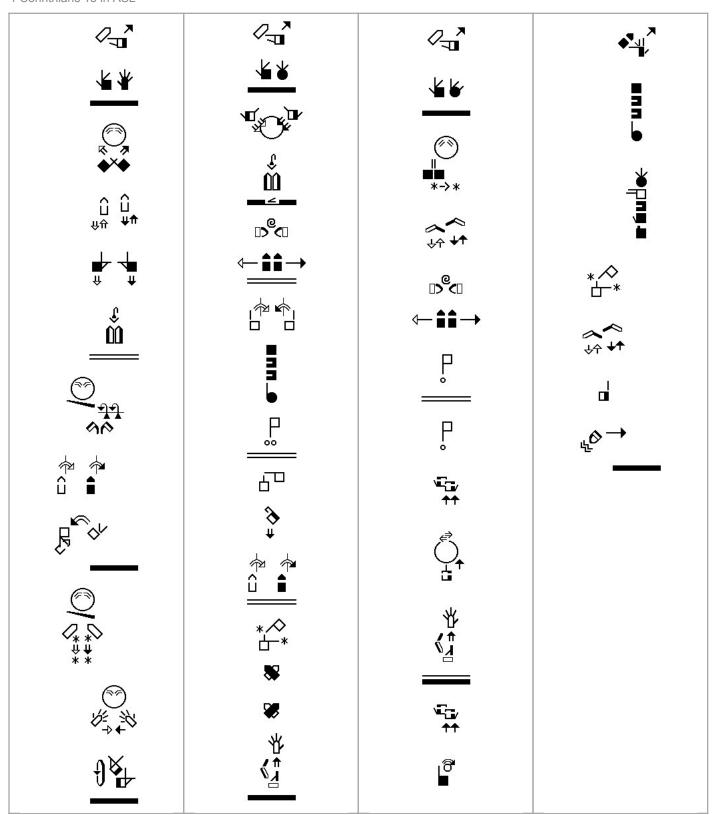
Verse 29. If the dead will not be raised, what point is there in people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it unless the dead will someday rise again? Verse 30. And why should we ourselves risk our lives hour by hour? Verse 31. For I swear, dear brothers and sisters, that I face death daily. This



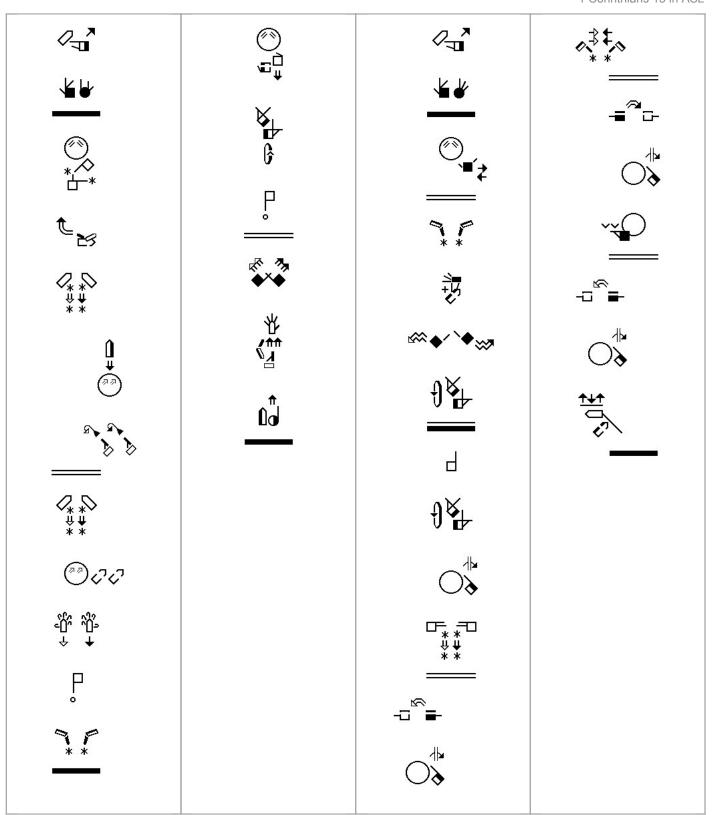
is as certain as my pride in what Christ Jesus our Lord has done in you. Verse 32. And what value was there in fighting wild beasts -- those people of Ephesus -- if there will be no resurrection from the dead? And if there is no resurrection, "Let's feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!"



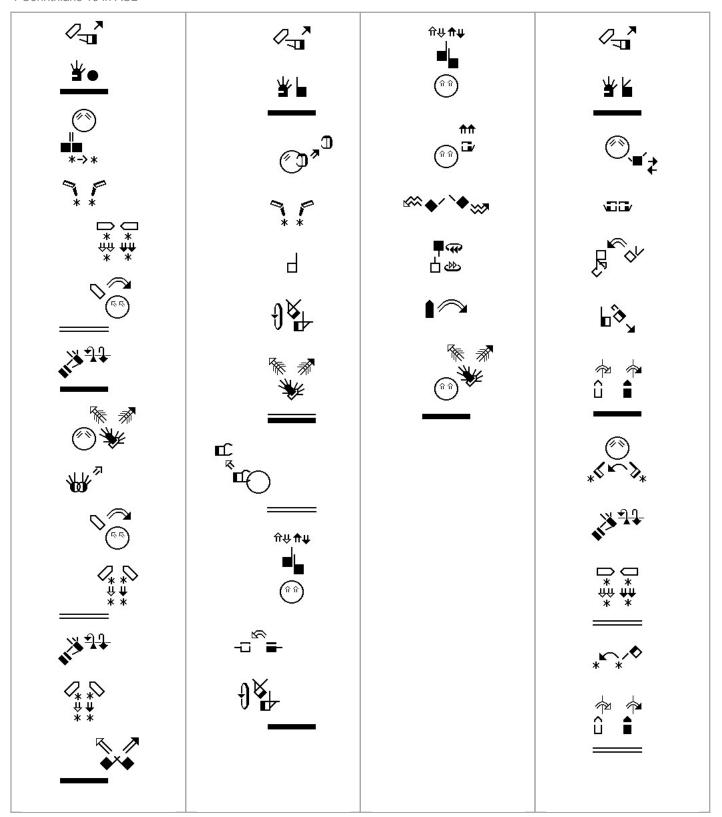
Verse 33. Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character." Verse 34. Think carefully about what is right, and stop sinning. For to your shame I say that some of you don't know God at all.



Verse 35. But someone may ask, "How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?" Verse 36. What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. Verse 37. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting.

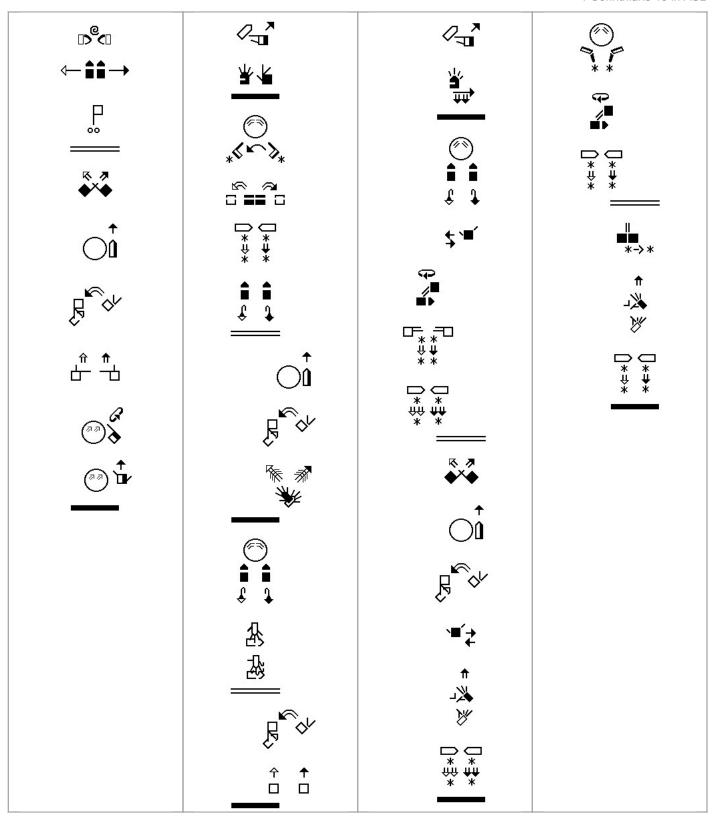


Verse 38. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed. Verse 39. Similarly there are different kinds of flesh -- one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

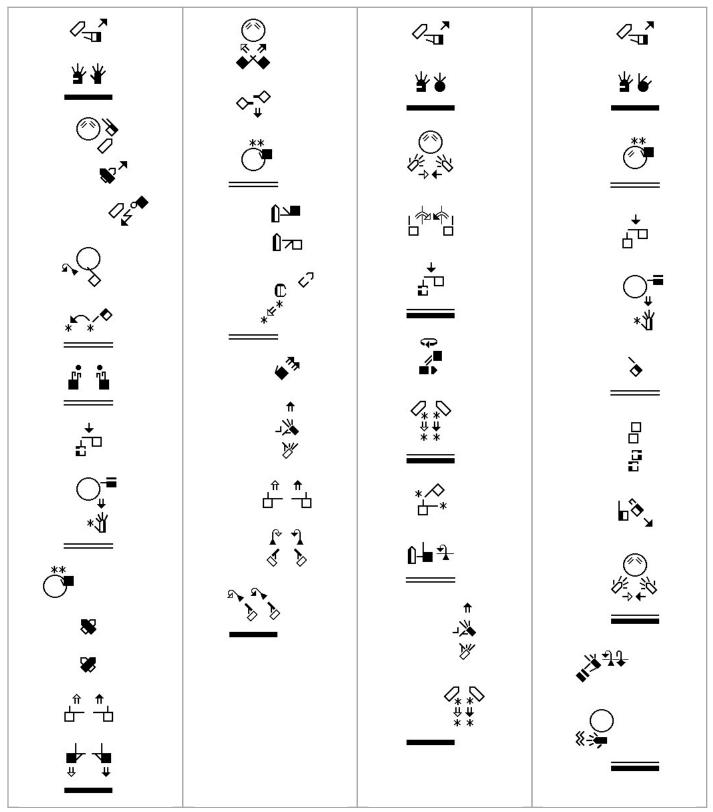


Verse 40. There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The glory of the heavenly bodies is different from the glory of the earthly bodies. Verse 41. The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And even the stars differ from each other in their glory. Verse 42. It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies

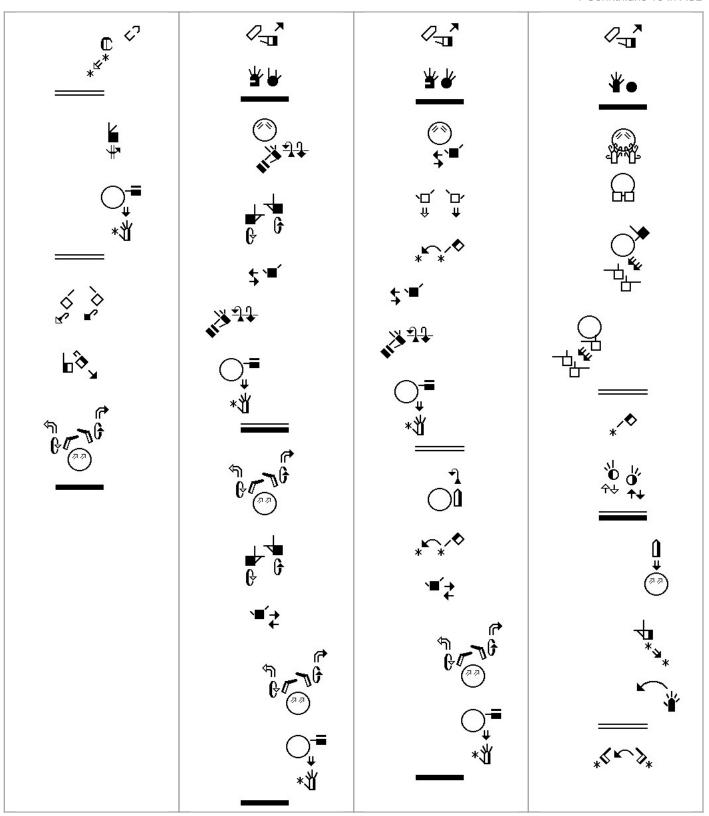
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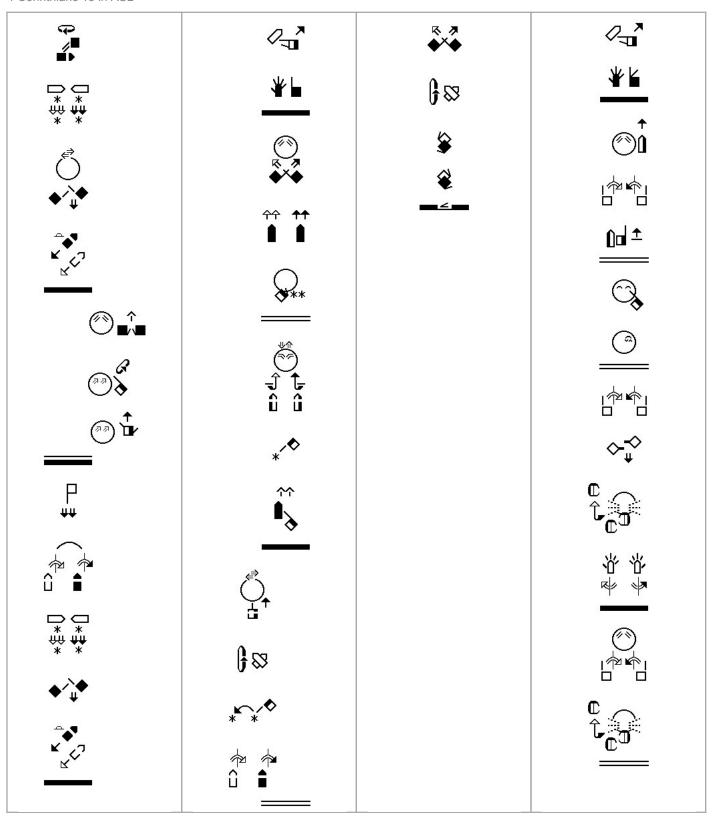
are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Verse 43. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. Verse 44. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies. NLT



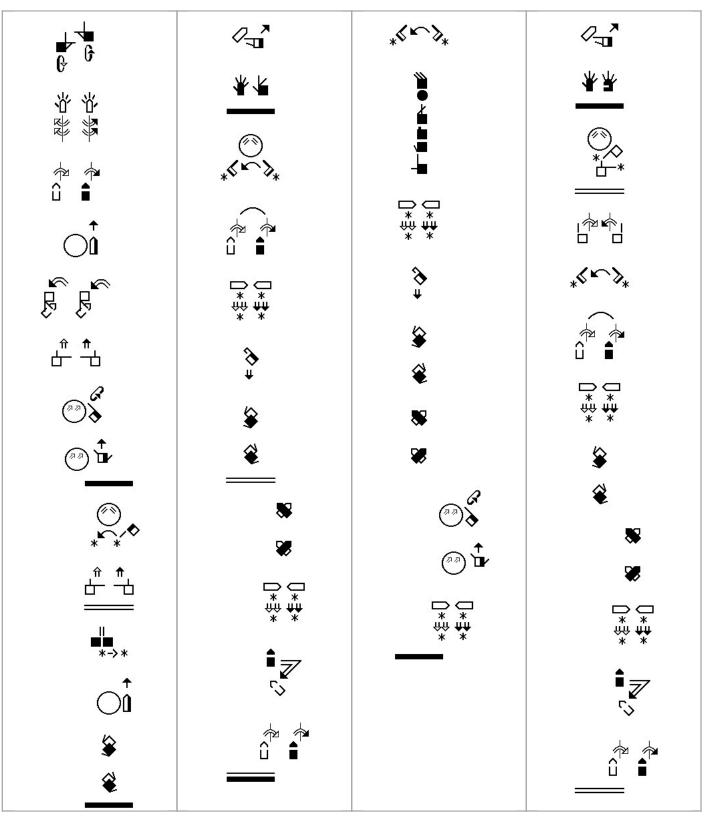
Verse 45. The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam -- that is, Christ -- is a life-giving Spirit. Verse 46. What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. Verse 47. Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth,



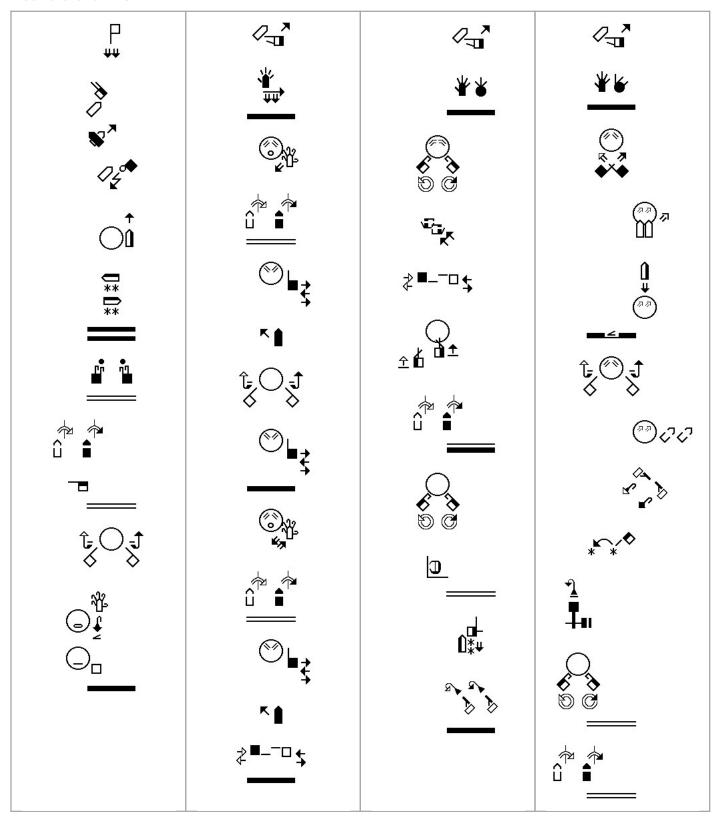
while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. Verse 48. Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. Verse 49. Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man. Verse 50. What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our



physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. Verse 51. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! Verse 52. It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds,

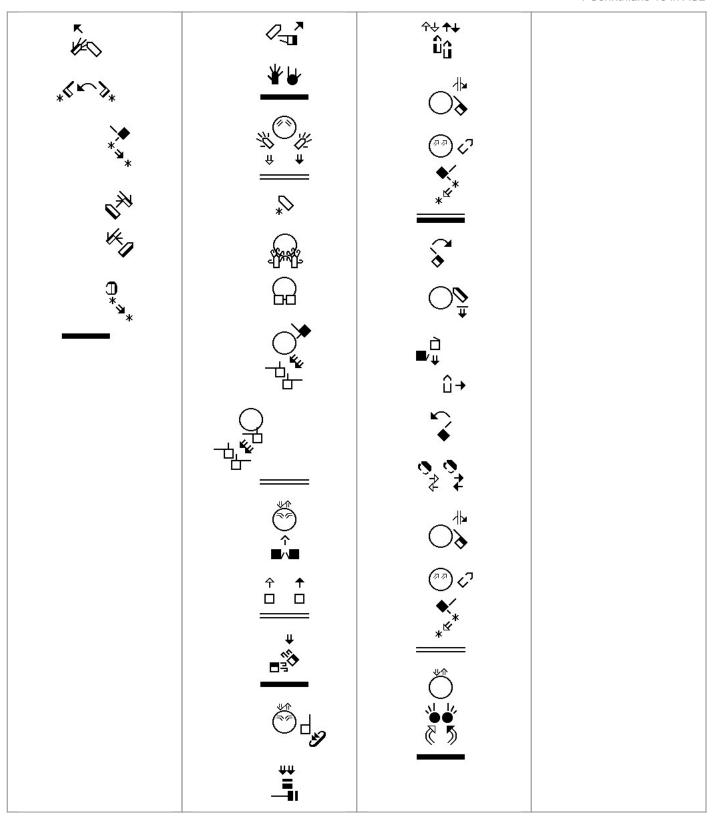


those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. Verse 53. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Verse 54. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die,

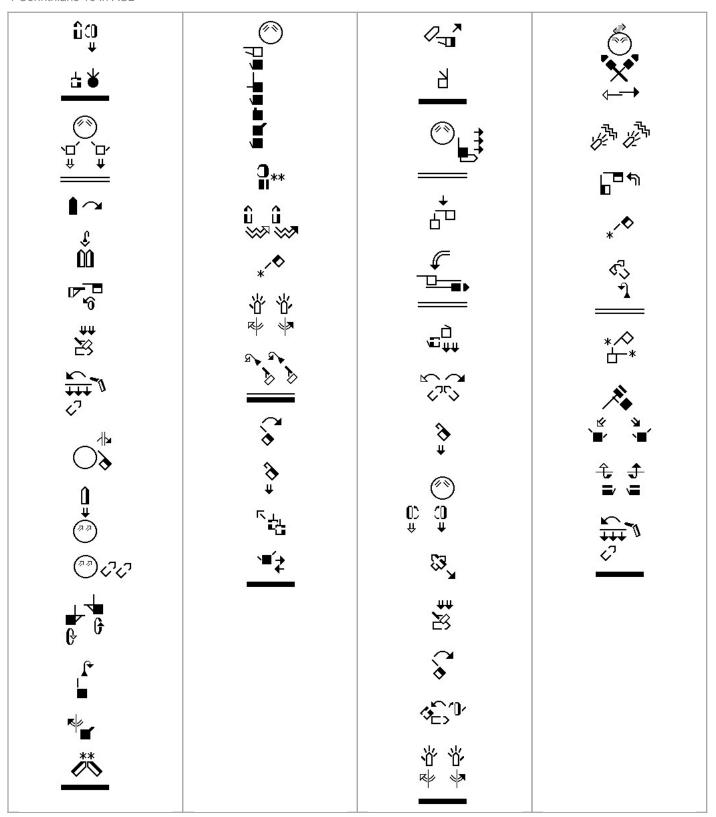


this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Verse 55. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" Verse 56. For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. Verse 57. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death

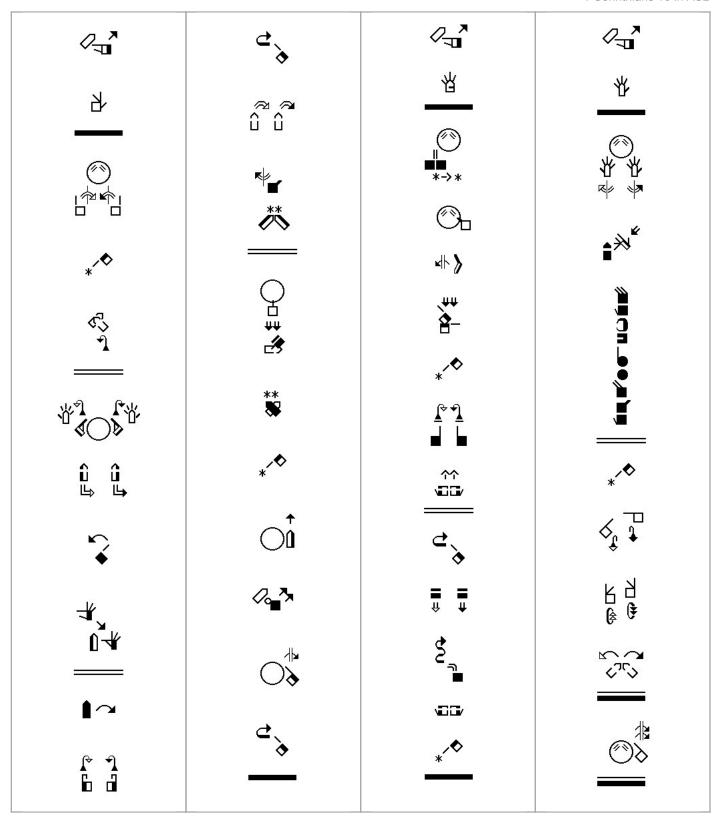
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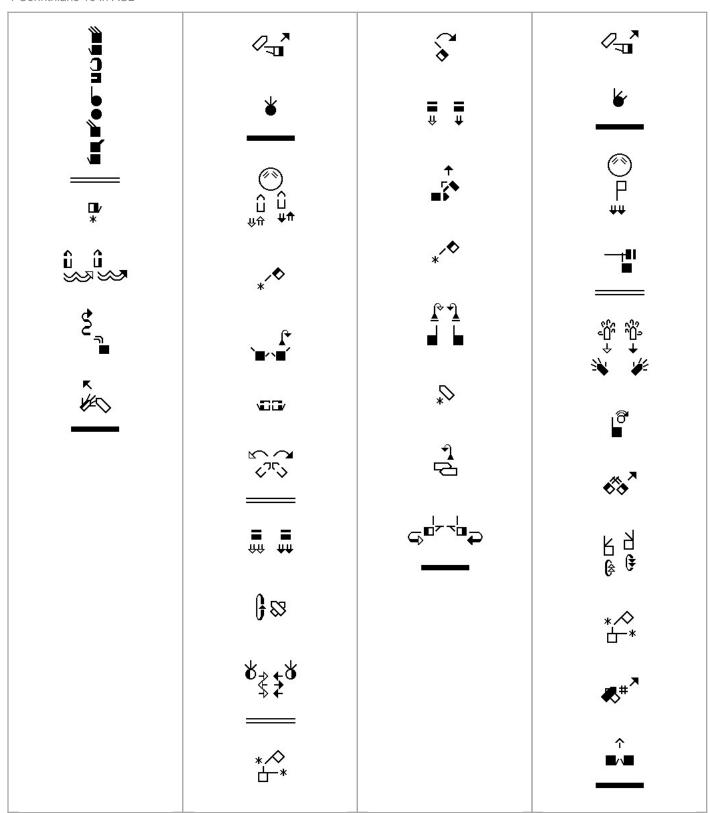
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 58. So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.



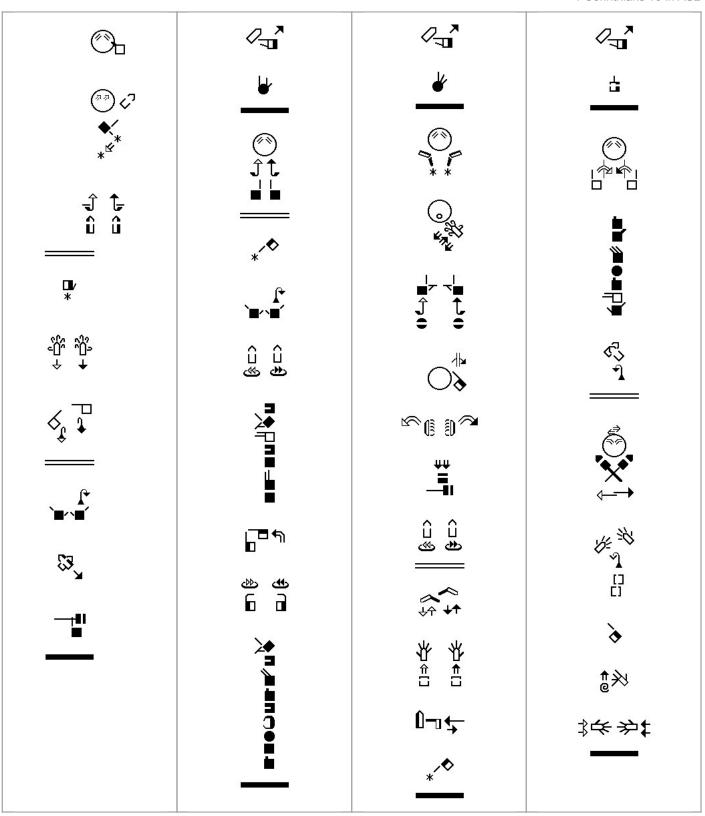
Chapter 16. Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. Verse 2. On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.



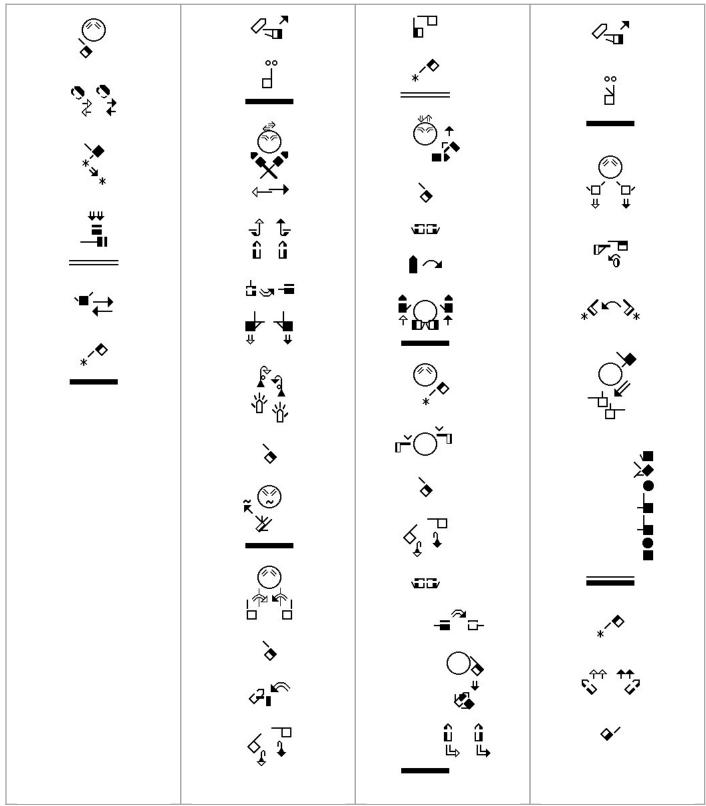
Verse 3. When I come, I will write letters of recommendation for the messengers you choose to deliver your gift to Jerusalem. Verse 4. And if it seems appropriate for me to go along, they can travel with me. Verse 5. I am coming to visit you after I have been to Macedonia,



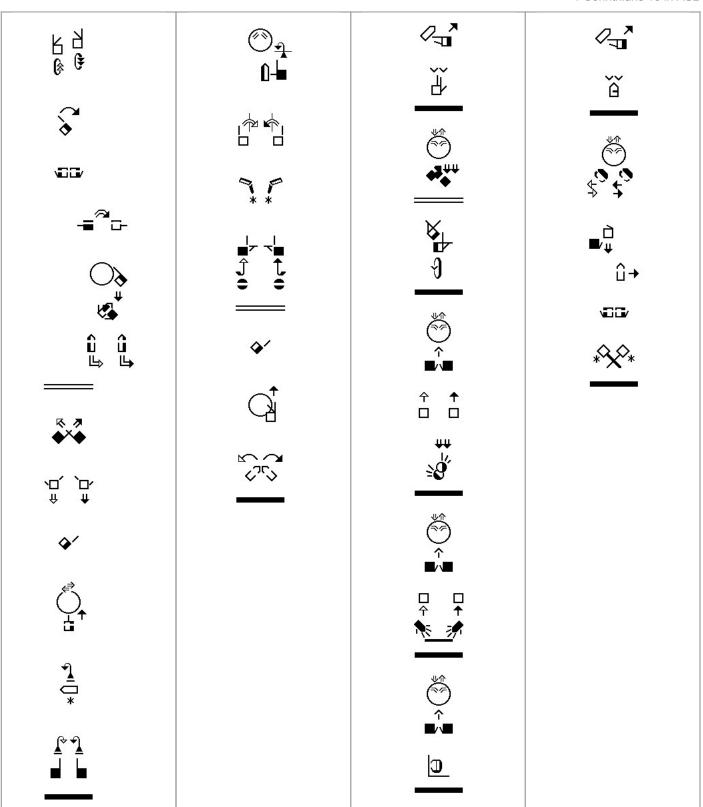
for I am planning to travel through Macedonia. Verse 6. Perhaps I will stay awhile with you, possibly all winter, and then you can send me on my way to my next destination. Verse 7. This time I don't want to make just a short visit and then go right on.



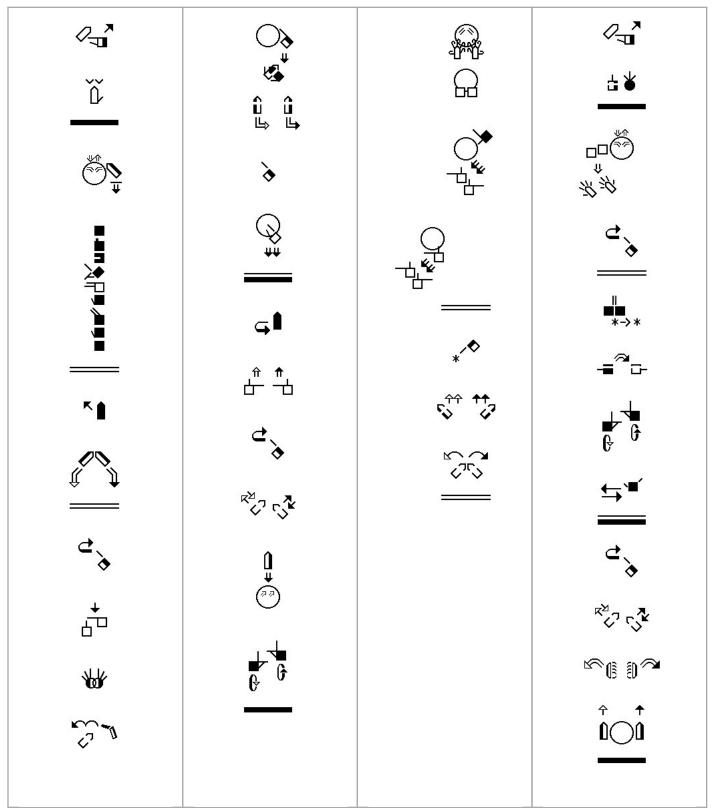
I want to come and stay awhile, if the Lord will let me. Verse 8. In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. Verse 9. There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me. Verse 10. When Timothy comes, don't intimidate him.



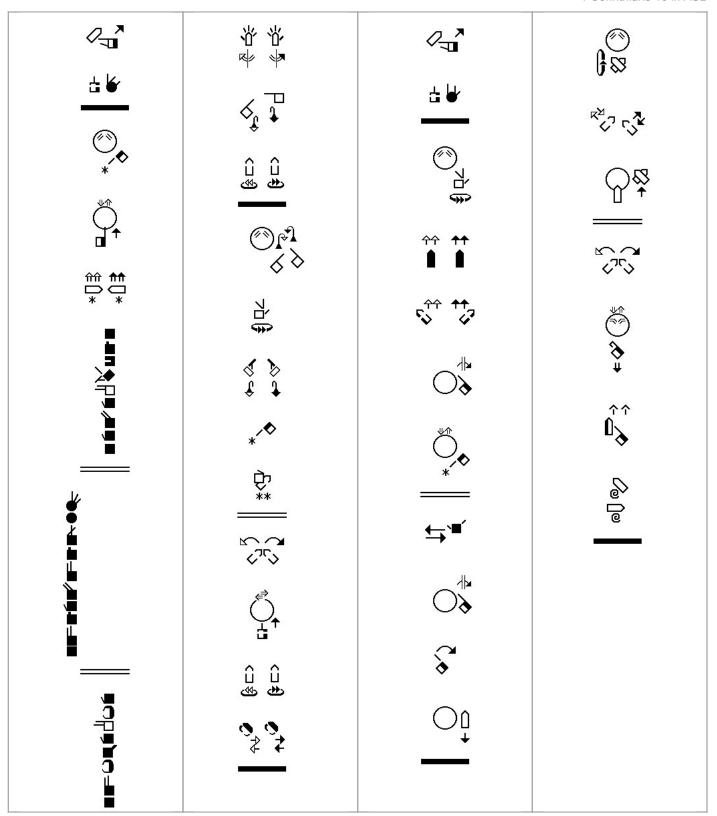
He is doing the Lord's work, just as I am. Verse 11. Don't let anyone treat him with contempt. Send him on his way with your blessing when he returns to me. I expect him to come with the other believers. Verse 12. Now about our brother Apollos -- I urged him NLT



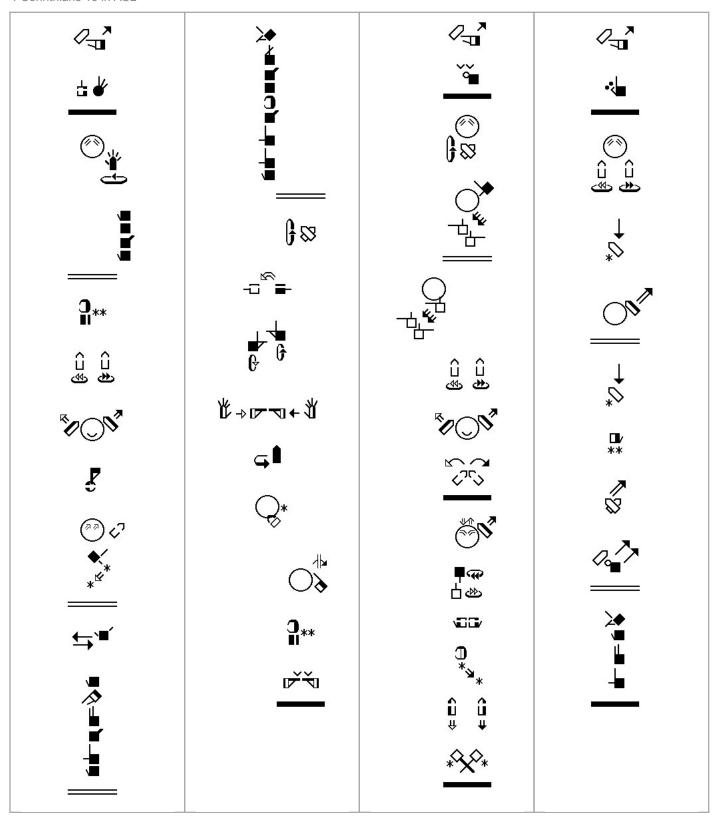
to visit you with the other believers, but he was not willing to go right now. He will see you later when he has the opportunity. Verse 13. Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. Verse 14. And do everything with love.



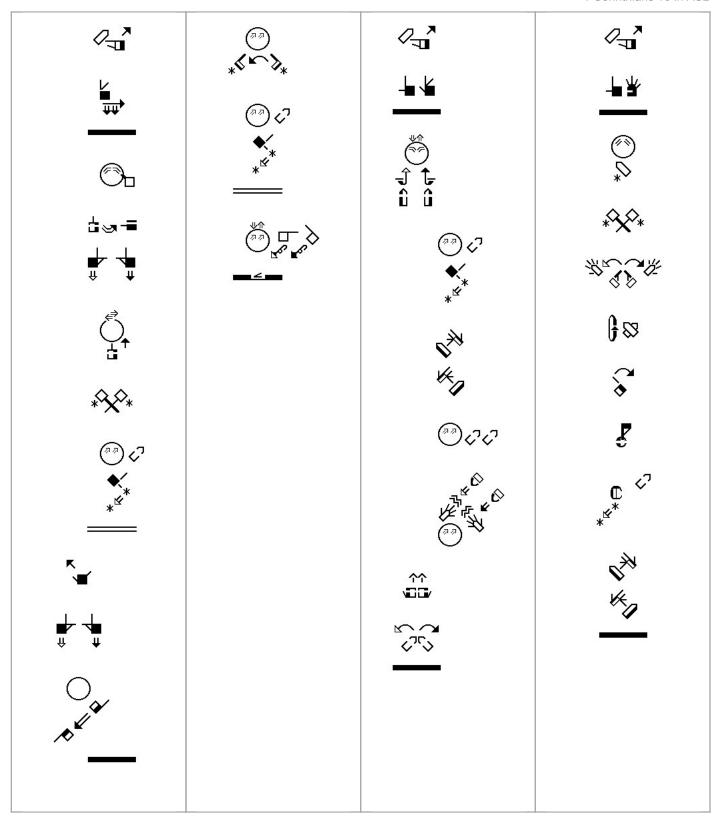
Verse 15. You know that Stephanas and his household were the first of the harvest of believers in Greece, and they are spending their lives in service to God's people. I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, Verse 16. to submit to them and others like them who serve with such devotion.



Verse 17. I am very glad that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have come here. They have been providing the help you weren't here to give me. Verse 18. They have been a wonderful encouragement to me, as they have been to you. You must show your appreciation to all who serve so well.



Verse 19. The churches here in the province of Asia send greetings in the Lord, as do Aquila and Priscilla and all the others who gather in their home for church meetings. Verse 20. All the brothers and sisters here send greetings to you. Greet each other with Christian love. Verse 21. HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING -- PAUL.



Verse 22. If anyone does not love the Lord, that person is cursed. Our Lord, come! Verse 23. May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. Verse 24. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus.