



“THE GIFTS”

Questions for further reflection

What challenged your thinking or beliefs from today's teaching?

What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ? How can we live this reality out with each other?

How can you use your unique giftedness as a member to help the body? How would this look like in the church?

In what ways do we "value" and "prize" certain gifts? How can we show more honor to the other members who are not as visible?

Text Corinthians 12:12-31

Definition of spiritual gifts: Channels by which God's "grace" comes to the church for the purpose of edifying the the believer, maturing the church and glorifying God.

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul is trying to teach the Corinthian believers and us about _____. It is this unity that is needed so the church can be _____.

As we have already seen disunity and division are the spiritual marks of this church. Paul has had to basically go back to square one and remind them what true spirituality is because this church had a _____ spirituality as we saw in vs 1-3. That false spirituality was fed by their pride and arrogance with the misuse of spiritual gifts as we saw in vs 4-6.

They also had a complete misunderstanding in how the Spirit _____ Himself when He so desires through spiritual gifts as we saw in vs 7-11.

All of this has now set the stage for us to look at the remainder of the chapter of what Paul has been driving towards which is why spiritual gifts are given, which is to have unity in the body so the body can be edified.

Take away for today: _____

This passage in vs 12-31 is all about the _____. The term " _____ " is introduced in verse 12 and then repeatedly used by Paul _____ more times throughout the remainder of the chapter.

**We find 4 principles in this passage
to help us achieve unity.**

I. _____ unity through the body of Christ

One of the serious problems facing the Corinthian church is _____. There is a kind of rugged _____ which then, as now, prompts many to seek their own _____ even at the _____ of their fellow-believers. Paul's desire is for the Corinthians to stop acting like a spiritual "lone ranger" and behave like a _____ with a corporate identity. The church of Jesus Christ is His body. Every believer, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, is _____ to the body of Christ by the _____ of the Holy Spirit (verse 13) Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:3-6, Romans 6:1-11.

**II. _____ in unity by being a
_____ of the _____**

If the church has its way, the entire body would be only _____, but Paul shows how foolish this would be. Vs 17. Christian unity does not flow from _____. God has not made us "cookie cutter Christians." While there is but one body, there are many different members, many different limbs and organs, each of which has a _____ role to play in the body.

As a member of the church, the body of Christ, we find we are a part of a much greater whole—we belong to an organism whose "_____ " is _____ and whose function is to represent Christ to a _____. As a member of the church, the body of Christ, we also find our true identity as an individual. The body imagery illustrates the individuality of every Christian. Each believer is, in body terms, an individual _____ or _____.

**III. _____ unity through your unique
_____ as one of the _____ members**

Most of the Corinthian Christians want to _____ something they are _____. When one is _____ with the gift(s) he or she is given, that individual's protest is _____ the Holy Spirit of God, the sovereign Giver of gifts. Spiritual gifts are "graces" sovereignly bestowed upon believers. Spiritual gifts, like salvation, are not a matter of _____. Gifts are not _____; they are sovereignly graced upon us. Because of this, those who take _____ in their gifts reveal their own foolishness and ignorance. Those who mistake gifts as an evidence of spirituality or of status are wrong, and those who mistake their gift as a _____ of insignificance are just as wrong and _____ the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**IV. _____ unity by _____
the " _____ " and " _____ " parts of
the _____**

The imagery of the body amazingly illustrates that the most _____, most _____ parts of the body are _____ the most important. The "body principle" overturns the value system by which the Corinthians appraise the significance of spiritual gifts. Those members of the body which are of the least importance are those to which we devote the most attention and effort.

The most _____ gifts, like the most important _____, are those which are not _____ or _____ (speed, kidneys, liver, heart etc). These members of the body do not get a lot of _____, nor do they need to be _____, but they are the most _____ members of the body whether we see them or not or if we value them or not.