

Life Group Guide 1 Cor 12:1–11 “Why Spiritual Gifts?” For the Sermon Preached on Jan 22 and For Use in Life Groups through Jan 29

Icebreaker Questions

Can you think of a gift that either you received or someone close to you received that caused jealousy, strife, or division in your family or among friends? Were you the one that was jealous?

Read the Biblical Text: 1 Cor 12:1–11

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. The Understanding of Spiritual Gifts (vv. 1-3)
 - a. A proper understanding of spiritual gifts (v. 1).
 - b. A perverted understanding of spiritual gifts (vv. 2-3).
 - c. A plain understanding of spiritual gifts (vv. 2-3).
- II. The Uniqueness of Spiritual Gifts (vv. 4-6)
 - a. Spiritual gifts are unique in their “diversities, ministries, and activities” (vv. 4-6).
 - b. Spiritual gifts are unique because they are given by God to each Christ-follower as a part of His perfect plan for their life (vv. 4-6).
- III. The Unity Produced by Spiritual Gifts (vv. 7-11)
 - a. Unity is the result when spiritual gifts are used properly (v. 7).
 - b. Unity is the result when spiritual gifts are seen as a grace gift from God (vv. 8-10).
 - c. Unity is the result comes when believers recognize that all gifts are from God and are to be used to glorify God (v. 11, 10:31).

Observations of the Biblical Text

1. According to v. 1, what is Paul writing to the Corinthians about now?

2. Why is he writing about this to the Corinthians according to v. 1?

3. What is the certain way to tell pagan and Christian worship apart according to vs. 2-3?

4. According to vs. 4-6, what are some sources of variety in the body of Christ?

5. Why does God give his people spiritual gifts according to v. 7?

6. In vs 8-10, Paul names some of the spiritual gifts. What gifts does he list here?

7. According to vs. 8-10 who gives these gifts to God’s people?

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8. According to v. 11, how do you get these gifts?

Interpretation of the Biblical Text

1. What is Paul trying to explain in verses 2-3? What does this have to do with spiritual gifts? How can we apply Paul’s teaching here?

2. Paul stresses all the variety in the church in vs. 4-6. According to Paul, what sort of variety is there in the church? What does this tell us about church? What does this tell us about God?

3. What can we learn from Paul’s proclamation that all the spiritual gifts are for the common good in verse 7? What does this tell us about what God intends for the church?

4. How does Paul end this discussion in verse 11? How is this a summary of verses 2-10? Why do you think Paul keeps coming back to unity?

Application of the Biblical Text

1. This week, memorize 1 Corinthians 12:7: “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

2. Keep up with our annual Bible reading plan this week. If you have gotten behind, pick up where we are right now. You can always go back and read what you’ve missed as you have time.

3. Read Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28, and Ephesians 4:11. What spiritual gifts do you believe have been given you by the Holy Spirit? How are you using those gifts for the common good and the mission of God in our church?

4. What are some things that we can do regularly to promote the unity and mission of our church?