

LOVE IS

1 & 2 Corinthians

Week 14: 1 Corinthians 12

Issue #4 - Order in worship - Chapters 11-14

- 1 Corinthians 11 - Headship and Communion
- 1 Corinthians 12 - The Place and Purpose of Spiritual Gifts
- 1 Corinthians 13 - Love as Prime Motivator
- 1 Corinthians 14 - Language and Order in Worship

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

- V1 - The best translation here is "Now, about the spiritual..." We have just been talking about communion and group meals. It's more than just spiritual gifts. "Gifts" is often inserted in verse 1 and is not the most accurate word.
- V2-3 - **Leadership** matters - and leadership is going to impact the usage of our gifts in worship and in church life. The first aspect is that our gifts must be aligned with the Gospel message.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

- V4-7 - There are varieties of **gifts** (charisma), **service** (diakonos), and **activities** (energou) - but they come from the one God. Our first alignment is with the Gospel, the second alignment is that our work be unified and divisive. This is what brings about the common good.
- The church isn't a **talent** show, or a show and tell meeting. We don't elevate people, we elevate God and seek the common good.
- V8-11 - Examples are given: wisdom is guidance, knowledge is information, faith is trust (beyond saving faith), healing, miracles/works, prophecy (truth telling), discernment, types of tongues and interpretation of them.
- The main issue here for Corinth is not just what the gifts are, but the **disorder** in worship and community when gifts/services/activities are stripped of their spiritual purposes. Paul will get to the purpose in chapter 13.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

- V12-13 - The church is one body, not clusters of **identity** groups (Jews/Greeks, slave/free). Paul is still working on that main issue in Corinth - division.
- V14-16 - No gift/service/activity is **above** another in a sense of importance. It takes all body members to be a body. Find your place and know that God desires you to work there. If you can't teach like someone else, sing like someone else, pray like someone else - that's ok. Know your role. You are no less important.
- V17-20 - IF YOU WERE just like someone else, and if we were all just like someone else, then our church body would be all hands, no feet. All eyes, and no hearing. **Know** your role. You can grow into new roles, but esteem them all. God hasn't designed us to be a church of all elders, all preachers, all worship leaders.

1 Corinthians 12:21-26

- Just as we should look up in **envy** to roles, we shouldn't look down on any roles in **contempt**.
- On the contrary, **honor** those roles that seem weaker. It's easy to honor the stage stuff - honor the workers, the servants, the laborers.
- First - so that there isn't **division**! Second - so that all parts of the body receive the **same care**.
- We **suffer** together, we **rejoice** together.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

- There is unity, but there is also **order**. First apostles (eyewitnesses), prophets (trusted revelation), teachers, miracles, healing/helping/administrating/tongues.
- Desire the **higher** gifts - these impart God's truth, which has been lacking in the Corinthian church.
- Beyond the gifts, there is a more **excellent** way - the way of love.