

Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Review:

Ephesians 4: Spiritual gifts are

- Universal but not uniform
- Grace from God
- Given as Christ apportioned
- To build the Body

The Corinthian Church

A. Context: A Gifted Yet Divided Church

1. Gifted

1 Cor. 1:4-7 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way, in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

2. Divided

1 Corinthians 1:10-11 “I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.”

B. Displaying “Carnality” = spiritual immaturity

1. In love with human wisdom & strength... therefore tending to boast in human achievements

2. Following human leaders as factions

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 “Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly, mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk not solid food... For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?”

C. Paul Must Correct Them: He does so by pointing out God’s ways

1 Cor. 1:25 “The foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom and the weakness of God stronger than man’s strength.”

1 Cor. 1:26-31 [Paul argues that God loves to choose lowly, despised things to humble human pride] “Not many were wise by human standards, not many were influential, not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise... As it is written, ‘Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.’”

D. The Holy Spirit is their true unity... and through the Spirit they will understand all that God has given them

1 Cor. 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.”

E. Worldly Attitudes Extended to Spiritual Gifts

1. Looked at externals... tended to give special pre-eminence to sign gifts like tongues
2. Some members felt spiritual pride for their supposedly exalted role... other felt like they didn’t even belong to the body
3. Paul had to write to correct their views

1 Corinthians 12-14

A. 1 Cor. 12: Unity in Diversity

Diversity Accomplishes Ultimate Unity

Without Diversity we would be a monstrosity

B. 1 Cor. 13 Spiritual Gifts MUST BE USED with LOVE

C. 1 Cor. 14 Spiritual Gifts must be used according to God’s ordering and rules