

## **The Gifted Body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 10-22-2023

*Live like you need your church  
and like your church needs you!*

### **Introduction**

- We began working through Acts, Daniel, 1 Corinthians and Revelation on Sept 5, 2021 as a way of deepening our understanding of what the Scriptures teach in light of the challenges we are facing in our current society and a way of equipping us for what is to come.
- We need to embrace the fact that love in a fallen world is always risky in that whenever we seek to do what God says is right and wise there is the real possibility that someone will not see it that way and we will be exposed to danger or harm or loss as a result: Paul ministered 1 ½ years in Corinth and the result was a troubled church with mixed fruit.
- The book of 1 Corinthians is Paul's attempt to address the many issues in the church in Corinth. One of the problems in the church at Corinth centered around how they viewed and handled the reality of spiritual gifts in the church.

### **1. Spiritual Gifts: Unity in Diversity (1-11)**

- It is important for Christians to have a proper understanding of spiritual gifts. (1)
- The ultimate use of spiritual gifts and the work of the Spirit is to exalt the name of Jesus. (2-3)
- All spiritual gifts and the ministries and fruit they produce are from God. (4-6)
- Every believer has been gifted by the Spirit for the good of the church. (7)
- Paul mentions nine gifts that the Spirit might give to a particular believer. (8-10)
- The Spirit sovereignly chooses to give certain gifts to certain believers as He sees fit. (11)(18)

**Point:** There is a profound unity in the Church even though there is a diversity of spiritual gifts because God is the source of them all.

### **2. Spiritual Gifts: Like the Members of Your Body (12-27)**

- The way the Spirit distributes the gifts is in such a way that there is a designed diversity just like the diverse members of the human body. (12)(14)(20)(27)
- Every believer is indwelt by the same Spirit and has been baptized into the same body of Christ. (12-14)
- If someone does not have a particular gifting, this does not mean that they are not a part of the body of Christ. (15-16)

- If every member of the body had the same gifting, then the body would be weakened, not strengthened. (17)
- Different spiritual gifts are necessary for the body of Christ to function as a body. (19)
- One person's gifting does not eliminate their need for another person's gifting. (21)
- The weaker appearing gifts are more necessary to the life of the body than we know. (22-24)
- We should have the same care for each member of the body regardless of their gifting and contribution to the body. (25-26)

**Point:** The diversity of spiritual gifts in the Church is good and necessary just like the different members of the human body.

### 3. Spiritual Gifts: The Priority of the Word Oriented Gifts (28-31)

- There is a hierarchy or priority among the gifts that the Spirit gives and the Word-oriented giftings are at the head of the list. (28)
- Paul mentions some other gifts here. (28)
- It is clear that God never intended for every or any Christian to have all the gifts or for every believer to have any particular gift. (29-30)
- The church, as a whole, should desire the greater gifts he just mentioned: apostles, prophets and teachers. (31)
- Spiritual gifts, however great, are not what is most important. (31)

**Point:** Though all the spiritual gifts are needed in the Church, there is a priority placed upon the Word-oriented gifts because God's Word is the guide for the use of them all.

**Question:** *Why is there so much disagreement over spiritual gifts in the Church?*

- The Approach
  - Going Beyond What Scripture Says
  - The Failure to Admit What We Don't Know
  - The Failure to Apply What We Do Know
1. Be a doer of the Word. (James 1:22)
  2. Love other believers in your church. (John 13:34)
  3. If you know your giftings, be sure to use them. (1 Peter 4:10)
  4. If you don't know your giftings, just keep serving, formally and informally, where there is a need. (Galatians 5:13)
  5. Live like you need your church and like your church needs you. (Romans 12:3-5)