

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

A Beautiful Body of Christ

Intro Tonight we are going to begin a study on a very important aspect of scripture – dealing w/ the manifestations of the Spirit in the Church of God and in the People of God.

V.1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts* [but actually that is not a good translation It is, "Now concerning the spiritualities" or spiritual matters brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.

Paul, in his letters, names three things he does not want Christians to be ignorant of:

- Don't be ignorant of God's plan for Israel (Romans 11:25).
- Don't be ignorant about the Second Coming of Jesus and the eternal state (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
- Don't be ignorant of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1).

Sadly, many Christians are ignorant on these exact points.

Beginning here, in Chapter 12 right on through Chapter 15, we have some great insight & info into *Spiritual matters*.

A) In This chapter will deal with the first of these spiritual matters **the gifts of the Spirit in the Body of Christ – identified in v. 4**

B) Then Ch. 13, the great love chapter, deals with the fruit of the Spirit;

C) Chapter 14 deals with **order by the Spirit** in the Christian assembly;

1) Chapter 15, the resurrection chapter, deals with glory by the Spirit.

Now in times past when I have taught on these matters – I have done so in a very in-depth manner. 3-4 weeks on the gifts alone.

A) We did a series a little over a year ago – and all of those studies are available on our website – (**Finding can be a Little confusing**)

B) Go to calvaryvista.com – Sermons/ Sermons Sunday or Wednesday – type in 1 Corinthians – scroll to 2019 / 2014 / 2001

C) So because we have looked at these subjects in an in-depth way recently.

1) This time around – I am going to take a more broad approach- big picture

D) One week each on Chapters 12-14 – to see how they fit together and get the big picture on what is saying here

I don't want you to be ignorant.

A) Some are ignorant –because- they don't pay attention to Paul's instruction about the nature of the gifts and how they are to function

B) Others are Ignorant in the sense that they ignore – the gifts saying they are not for today.

1) They were for the apostolic age and we don't need them today!

C) The Problem is they cannot support that thinking scripturally at all. Attempts to do so – really stretch the scriptures.

QUOTE: MARTYN LLOYD-JONES “**THE SCRIPTURES NEVER ANYWHERE TEACH THAT THESE THINGS WERE TEMPORARY - NEVER!**”

D) For most – the reason why they hold this position – is because of the abuses going on today.

1) They throw out the whole thing. / Baby w/ the Bath water

My Response to those who think that way is always – Look at Corinth – Corinth was a Church that was established some 25 yrs after Pentecost.

A) And they were a Church in which there was a lot of abuses going on over the subject of spiritual gifts & manifestations in the Church.

B) Paul doesn't write to them & say – *Listen these gifts are not for today & you shouldn't be using them – you're abusing the gifts –*

C) No He corrects them & instructs them as to how they were to be used in the Church.

2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

A) Here, Paul lays down a broad but important principle for discerning matters regarding spiritual gifts –

B) Judge things by how they relate to Jesus Christ. Does a supposed spiritual gift glorify Jesus?

1) Does it promote the true Jesus or a false one?

C) Jesus made it plain, saying that when the Holy Spirit would come, *He will testify of Me* (John 15:26),

1) and *He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you* (John 16:14).

D) The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not to promote Himself or any man, but to glorify and represent Jesus.

E) We can, therefore, trust that the true ministry of the Holy Spirit will be according to the nature of Jesus.

1) Basic Principle and guideline

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Here Paul gives us a list of some spiritual gifts – sign gifts and 3 important insights about the gifts

- 1.) Diversity of Spiritual Gifts.
- 2.) The Nature of Spiritual Gifts.
- 3.) The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts.

The Diversity of Spiritual gifts

A) In V. 4-5 Paul uses two key words here – Differences and Diversity

B) Differences speaks of – variety – **31 flavors all ice cream** / made of the same stuff source -Milk – but there is a variety.

C) When it comes to the gifts of the Spirit there is a **variety** – not all teachers / in order for body to function there has to be variety.

1) **Same stuff from the same source**. All from the Lord – See the Unity of the Godhead.

There are **DIFFERENT GIFTS**, but the **SAME SPIRIT**... There are **DIFFERENT MINISTRIES**, but the **SAME LORD**,
DIFFERENT OPERATIONS, but the **SAME GOD**.

A) But there not just a variety **there is a DIVERSITY**

B) meaning the way in which these gifts are going to be manifested is not going to be the same.

1) It will Differ w/ the time / place / person. – NO FORMULA

C) God is not limited to a particular pattern

Example: Jesus healing of blind men:

1) Mark 10:51-52 He simply spoke – go your faith has made you well

2) Matthew 9:29-30 He touched the blind persons eyes

3) Mark 8:23 He spit on the eyes

4) John 9:6-7 He made mud with spit

D) I believe God rarely works the same way twice because he knows our tendency to make formulas

1) And formulas have a tendency to eliminate faith in God – replaced by faith in a formula

E) So first we see the Diversity of the Gifts

#2 The Nature of the gifts V.7 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one
A) **MANIFESTATION = a shining forth, an expression.**

B) **Awesome thought Spiritual gifts are in reality a shining forth of the Holy Spirit.**

1) They are an expression NOT of man's ability but an expression of the **person and power of the Holy Spirit**.

C) **Spiritual gifts are the means whereby man is enabled by the Holy Spirit to do those things which are not humanly possible.**

D)The work of the Kingdom of God is a work that is outside of mere human capacity. SPIRITUAL WORK

1)It is a work that **MUST** be undertaken by God because it is a work that is eternal in **scope and consequence**.

E)THEREFORE all of the ministry MUST be accomplished in and through power of the Holy Spirit.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

A)The Holy Spirit determines who gets what gifts at what time

#3 The Purpose of the gifts:

A)7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

B)Spiritual gifts are NOT given to me for my own personal profit – they are meant to build up and encourage the body of Christ.

C)Example of Jesus and scriptural mandate for Jesus followers – is to be others focused.

1)Learn the beauty of the truth – it is more blessed to give than receive.

I believe one of the greatest detriments our consumer oriented society has contributed to the church world

A)Is it has created a generation of Christians – who tend to think entirely about church in the realm of what is in it for me.

B)How is this going to benefit me.

C)So Paul is wanting to make it very clear here and he will repeat this over and over - the gifts are about - me being used to bless others.

Note here that Paul gives us a list of 9 gifts or manifestations of the Spirit -That can be evident in the body of Christ.

A)Once again I remind you - I have taught extensively on this in past years

B)You want to Dive deeper – go listen to those studies

C)But for our purpose tonight – I am going to give a brief description and a scriptural example

8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit,

A)The word wisdom is the application of Knowledge and A word of wisdom is getting from the Holy Spirit profound wisdom in a situation that calls for it

B)I think we see a good example of this in the early Church – in Acts 6 a situation arose – that the apostles had never dealt with before

C)A dispute arose in the Church – Hellenistic widows were not be properly taken care of in the food distribution –

1)The Problem was brought to the Apostles – they prayed and the Lord gave them a word of wisdom – a solution to the problem / diffused the problem

3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. Acts 6:3-4

D)So the gift of the Word of wisdom is getting from the Holy Spirit profound wisdom in a situation that calls for it

to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

A)The gift of the word of Knowledge is having knowledge about a situation that you would not normally have

Example Acts 5 Ananias and Saphira -lie to the Holy Spirit – about money that was given for the sale of a property –

B)Peter is given this word of Knowledge and calls them on it

C)These two gifts are often used together in preaching – in the middle of a message:

1)Someone here or some of you are dealing with this problem - I don't know – but the Spirit impressed on my heart

D)The word of wisdom follows - this is what God is calling you to do right now – here is how this verse applies to your situation

E)Those two gifts function in sermons as well as in conversations

Take the next three together - 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, 10 to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy,

A)The faith spoken of here is a supernatural faith

Aa)Goes beyond the normal trust in God – more of a confidence – God is going to move

B)Example: In preaching I always have faith that God can save – I believe whole heartedly in the power of the gospel.

1)When I present it – I always have faith that someone can be saved

C)But there are times when I know someone is going to get saved or many people – Word of Knowledge – God gives me

1)I preach with a faith and confidence – great response

D)With Healing Peter at the gate Beautiful - Silver and gold... rise and walk

A great story in the life of Pastor Chuck – Gift of faith and healing worked together – man in Wheelchair – only had cold

A)Why didn't you pull him out – God didn't give me the faith

B)Another the Working of miracles: Literally *dynamis*, or “acts of power.”

C)This describes when the Holy Spirit chooses to “override” the laws of nature (as a pilot might use manual controls), working in or through an available person.

D)Peter walked on water! – Against the laws of nature

Note None of these gifts are permanent:

A)Can't cruise to the hospital tonight – walk up and down the Halls – healing people. Working miracles

B)If someone felt like God gave them the faith to do that – the result would be that healing on the spot would happen.

C)31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. What is the best gift? - The gift that fits the need at the moment

D)If a person is in need of healing – the best gift would not be a word of wisdom – it would be faith and healing

1)And if a person needed a word of wisdom about a situation – the gift of healing would be of no value

E)Since the goal is the prophet of all - Lord I want the gift that is going to be best for that moment – bless and help others

to another prophecy,

A)We are going to talk about Prophecy, tongues and interpretation in detail in Chapter 14 – So tonight give a simple definition

B)Prophecy is the declaring of God's word, will and heart in a way that can be foretelling – predictive

1)Or Forth telling - Describing God's heart – giving a specific word – happens all the time in preaching – the Word for today

C)Again talk more later

to another discerning of spirits

A)The ability to tell the difference between true and false doctrine, and between what is of the Holy Spirit and what isn't

B)Example Acts 8 Simon the Sorcerer – apparently gets saved – then when he sees the Holy Spirit fall on people –

1)Because of his Sorcery background – he offers to buy the trick

C)Peter has discernment – Simon's heart is wrong and motives are not right and rebukes him

D)I have had situations where I know someone is lying to me about a situation – Discern - can't say why – no proof

1)Able to say: I am discerning right now -what you are saying is not true

2)They end up confessing – example of the gift of discerning of spirits

to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

A)The gift of tongues is mainly a prayer language that is given whereby you by faith are communicating with God in a language you don't know

B)Tongues is the only one of these gifts that only benefits the person who has it.

Bb)Paul puts it this way in 1 Corinthians 14 - the person who prays in a tongue edifies himself

C)When I pray in a tongue my spirit prays but my understanding isn't fruitful - - I have no idea of the benefit -

1)I just have to believe that it is bearing fruit – because God says it does

D)In the group setting: Tongues is only to be used if it is accompanied by an interpretation –

1)Again a supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to interpret a language that you have never studied.

E)(More when we get to ch. 14)

So Paul list the gifts – He has described the Diversity of, the nature of and the purpose of the gifts.

A)Now he is going to give a very good illustration of how the Body of Christ is meant to function.

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

A)So here Paul begins to use this the Body of Christ is one – body made up of many members - all connected to Jesus –

B)In the body there is Diversity – we are not all the same – we are different – personality - backgrounds – and gifting

1)But we are all significance - and no one in the body of Christ should feel like they are less significant

C)Now Paul has a sense of humor - this is meant to be funny- he is going to deal with two problems in the body – analogy of the human body

1)The first is the person who has a tendency to feel insignificant

15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

Imagine if your foot could talk – stuck in this shoe all day no one sees me – I get stepped on – these shoes smell - I got the dirty stinky Job – no one appreciates me –

The hand gets all the attention – always doing something – so prominent

A)Not fair I am done – if that is how your feet responded – problems – body isn't going anywhere easily

B)The body is becomes handicapped –

C)I suggest to you all over the world there are churches that are handicapped by members who don't know their function – don't perform

1)Or people who don't want to do anything because they can't do the one thing they would like to do.

D)The Diversity of the body is by design – we all play our part - beautiful

16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

A)What is the whole body were an eye – that would be gross – supper good at seeing not good at anything else.

B)So first Paul deals with the problem of some feeling insignificant – he wants us all to understand we are significant

1)The body functions the best when everyone is going his or her part

C)But then Paul is going to switch and deal with the issue of pride or what we might call the feeling of over significance

1)This is all about me

20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

A)There are those – mentality – this is all about me – revolves around me – I could do this by myself -

B)There can be a tendency in a church of the people who are out front to treat the people who are behind the scenes like they don't matter.

C)Think of an orchestra – the Drums have a significant role – you might not be to decipher one stringed instrument from another

1)or in the woodwind family – the FLUTE from the Piccolo – but there is no mistaking the drums - booming

D)What if the Drum decided -I want to be more prominent – Boom -I want to be featured - more important - - MESSY – NOISY – LOUD

1)Instead of being something beautiful – horrible – ears hurting

22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need.

A)One of the weakest parts of the human body is the Knee cap – when is the last time you thanked the Lord for your knee cap?

B)Never think about our knee cap – until it hurts

C)My daughter Amy blew out her patella – excruciating

D)Well in the body of Christ – there are people that serve behind the scenes

Some who do not have the gifting of those who are out front

A)They are not Bible teachers or worship leaders – they are not counselors or those praying for other up front

B)They do stuff behind the scenes here that is so important that it is like the when the Knee cap – you notice when it is not right –

1)The Body suffers

C)One guy who volunteers here every week – he does the work of 10 people

1)No one knows and no sees – all behind the scenes- keeps this place functioning properly – takes great ownership of God's house

D)When he goes on vacation -we feel it. Everyone has to step up to accomplish what he does by himself

I think of those who are the prayer warriors here. Pray behind the scenes

A)That is the fuel for the engine – that keeps the work flowing

B)No one sees that but God – and I know that this church would be 50x more affective if those of you stopped praying

C)This is what I think Paul is getting at when he uses this analogy of the Human Body V.24 But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

D)Think about the heart - -the heart is not seen - don't think about it don't check to make sure it is working – SO VITAL to everything

1)Pumping the blood that keeps everything else functioning

So this is the point that Paul is getting at with this analogy- Every member of the body plays a significant role –

A)And if one part of the body – isn't functioning properly the whole of the body is affected –

B)And so too in the body of Christ – when we are all doing our part – and we are all functioning properly – it is beautiful – glorious

C)But if a few are not then the body begins to experience Schisms – a tearing apart – like when the tendon holding the Patella gets stretched –
1)Not working – pain and misery

C)He does a deep dive into talking about what is to be at the heart of every function – LOVE

D)That will be our focus next time

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; thumb with hammer feel if all over right – toothache – lead to a headache and ear ache

A)When person feels pain -it is meant to affect us all. – Mike G

B)We all mourned -

26 So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

We are all connected together – we suffer together -we celebrate together

A)That is the body of Christ

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

B)The body of Christ is made up of all these various parts called people with different gifts, talents, the way the Holy spirit chooses to manifest

C)The best gift is the one that fits the need at the moment –

1)When mercy is needed the person with the gift of exhortation is probably not the right fit

And yet I show you a more excellent way.

A)The way of Love – Paul places the love chapter between ch.12 & 14 -where it would almost seem to make more sense to continue into 14

B)These gifts functioning in the body – but before Paul starts talking about the function –