

LXXV. CHRISTIANS MUST NOT BE IGNORANT OF THEIR SPIRITUAL PURPOSE: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

INTRODUCTION. What is my spiritual purpose within the church? What is my purpose? What should I be focused on, when it comes to my relationships with Christ's people, so that I am useful to God and my fellow brothers and sisters? That is what we get into today as we look at 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. But first, let me remind you what we have learned thus far in 1 Corinthians 12.

CON(TEXT).

I. CHRISTIANS MUST NOT BE IGNORANT ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:1).

1 Corinthians 12:1

"Now concerning spiritual gifts (*spiritual things, i.e. spiritual gifts, which he treats in this section*), brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed (*ignorant*)."

II. CHRISTIANS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THEY WERE ONCE PAGANS (1 Corinthians 12:2a).

1 Corinthians 12:2a

"You know that when you were pagans (*lit. Gentiles, i.e. Heathens or Pagans*)..."

III. CHRISTIANS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THEY WERE ONCE LED ASTRAY (1 Corinthians 12:2b).

1 Corinthians 12:2b

"...you were led astray..."

IV. CHRISTIANS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THEY WERE ONCE IDOLATORS (1 Corinthians 12:2c).

1 Corinthians 12:2c

"...to mute idols, however you were led."

V. WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, "JESUS IS ANATHEMA," THAT IS ROTTEN FRUIT AND THEREFORE NOT A PRODUCT OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT (1 Corinthians 12:3a).

1 Corinthians 12:3a

"Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says 'Jesus is accursed!'"

VI. WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, "JESUS IS LORD," THAT IS HEALTHY FRUIT AND THEREFORE A PRODUCT OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT (1 Corinthians 12:3b).

1 Corinthians 12:3b

"and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit."

To summarize,

In 1 Corinthians 12:1 we learn *Christians must not be ignorant of spiritual gifts.*

In 1 Corinthians 12:2 we learn *Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual past.*

In 1 Corinthians 12:3 we learn *Christians must not be ignorant of spiritual fruit.*

BOYS AND GIRLS...

Now look at the verses we are drawing our attention to today.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

"4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities (*effects*), but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

DOCTRINE. Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual purpose.

OUTLINE. Five main truths to learn from these four verses.

I. CHRISTIANS ARE GIFTED DIFFERENTLY, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT GIFTS THEM (1 Corinthians 12:4).

1 Corinthians 12:4 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;"

Two specifics:

I) There are a varieties of gifts, therefore the Church is *diverse*.

1 Corinthians 12:4 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;"

II) The same Spirit gifts us, therefore the Church is *united*.

1 Corinthians 12:4 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;"

BOYS AND GIRLS...

II. CHRISTIANS SERVE DIFFERENTLY, BUT THE SAME JESUS IS SERVED (1 Corinthians 12:5).

1 Corinthians 12:5 "and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;"

Two specifics:

I) There are a varieties of ways we serve Christ, therefore the

Church is *diverse*.

1 Corinthians 12:5 "and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;"

II) The Church all serves the Lord Jesus Christ, therefore the Church is *united*.

1 Corinthians 12:5 "and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;"

BOYS AND GIRLS...

III. CHRISTIANS SERVE WITH DIFFERENT EFFECTS, BUT THE SAME FATHER EMPOWERS ALL (1 Corinthians 12:6).

1 Corinthians 12:6 "and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."

Two specifics:

I) There are a varieties of effects, therefore the Church is *diverse*.

1 Corinthians 12:6 "and there are varieties of activities (Gk. *energēma* = effect/thing wrought), but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."

– Some ten fold, some fifty fold, some one-hundred fold.

II) The same Father empowers all the effects, therefore the Church is *united*.

1 Corinthians 12:6 "and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."

BOYS AND GIRLS...

IV. EVERY BELIEVER IS GIVEN A SPIRITUAL GIFT (1 Corinthians 12:7a).

1 Corinthians 12:7a "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit..."

BOYS AND GIRLS...

V. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GIVEN FOR THE COMMON GOOD (1 Corinthians 12:7a).

1 Corinthians 12:7b "...for the common good."

BOYS AND GIRLS...

QUESTION. So what is my Spiritual Purpose within the church when it comes to the ways that God has gifted me individually as a Christian?

ANSWER 1. First, you need to make certain you are actually part of the Church, not just a pretender or a pagan.

There is no use talking about Spiritual Gifts if you have not had your sins forgiven by Christ!

- **(i)** If you have not yet been born again, you need to have THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATE YOU, not simply gift you.
 - **John 3:7** "You must be born again." *this happens by the Holy Spirit
- **(ii)** If you are not trusting in and submitting to Christ, you need to have CHRIST SERVE YOU, not simply think you can start serving Christ.
 - **Mark 10:45** "Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
- **(iii)** If you are not converted to Christ, you need to have God the Father adopt you, not simply empower you.
 - **John 1:12** "But to all who did receive [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."
 - **BOYS AND GIRLS**, everyone needs to be regenerated, ransomed, and adopted.

Believers, these things have happened to you! You have been regenerated, ransomed, and adopted by our Triune God. And God gave you a specific purpose to fulfill within the church, which is His household.

Now, if you are a Christian...

ANSWER 2. Your spiritual purpose within the church is to be different, yet united.

You have different gifts and abilities than others, yet the same Spirit gifts you, the same Lord is served by you, and the same Father empowers the effects your service produces.

ANSWER 3. Your spiritual purpose within the church is to be used by God for the common good of His people, for His glory.

APPLICATION

Instruction

I) Christians are different, not a carbon copy of others within the church.

- (i) Do not try to be exactly like others.
- (ii) Do not require others to be exactly like you or others.

Exhortation

II) Act like you are different by using your specific gifts to serve Christ and produce the effects that God empowers.

- **1 Corinthians 14:12** "Strive to excel in building up the church."

Instruction

III) Christians have unity—the same Spirit gifts, the same Christ is served, and the same Father is working the effects for His glory and other's good.

Instruction

IV) Unity is not something Christians have to build; unity is something Christians have to maintain.

Ephesians 4:1-6 "1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all *humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love*, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

BTW, another way to maintain unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace is by being adamant not to stir up division through gossip, slander, backbiting, or dissensions.

Titus 3:10-11 "10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned."

CONCLUSION.

Unbelievers,

I) Go to Christ and get all you need for eternal life.

Believers,

- I) Praise God for regenerating, ransoming, and adopted you.
 - II) Thank Him also for gifting you, allowing you to serve Him, and empowering the effects that come from your service.
 - III) Fulfill your purpose within the church by serving Christ and His people for the common good, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
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HELPS

1 Corinthians 12:5-11

Extraordinary Spiritual Gifts / John Owen

The Works of John Owen. 453-474. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1965.

[BX9315.O94 W67 1965](#)

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1 Corinthians 12:11

Ministerial Endowments the Work of the Spirit / John Owen

The Works of John Owen. 441-451. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1965.

[BX9315.O94 W67 1965](#)

[♥ Log in to Save to List](#) | [View Result](#)

Spiritual Gifts Essential to a Visible Church-State / John Owen

The Gospel Standard 123, no.1464 (Dec 1957): 353-361.

[♥ Log in to Save to List](#) | [View Result](#)

- **12:1-11** Wickliff, John, "Of Spiritual Gifts," *Writings of the Reverend and Learned John Wickliff*, vol. 1 in the set, *The British Reformers*, pp. 215-218.
- **12:6** Nettleton, Asahel, notes for a sermon, *Sermons*, pp. 466-467.
- **12:13** Boston, Thomas, "Of Union with Christ," *Commentary on the*

Shorter Catechism, i.544-556.

- Boston, Thomas, "How the Sacraments Become Effectual Means of Salvation," *Commentary on the Shorter Catechism*, ii.460-465.
 - **12:27-28** Baxter, Richard, "Christ, & Not the Pope, Universal Head of the Church," *The Morning Exercises*, v.672-689.
 - **12:28** Spurgeon, C.H., "Helps," #777, *MTP* 13.589-600.
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PURITAN QUOTES

- "We must covet gifts for the good of others, that they may be edified; and we must covet grace for the good of our own souls, that they may be saved." — Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1958 reprint), 145.
- "Gifts are for the use and good of others, they are given for the profiting and edifying of others. So says the apostle, 'A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.'" — Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1958 reprint), 144–145.
- "All gifts have been given so that the church might attain unity and maturity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God." — John Owen, *A Discourse of Spiritual Gifts*, in *The Works of John Owen*, vol. 4 (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965 reprint), 420.
- "Spiritual gifts are that without which the church cannot subsist in the world, nor can believers be useful to one another and the rest of mankind to the glory of Christ as they ought to be." — John Owen, *A Discourse of Spiritual Gifts*, in *The Works of John Owen*, vol. 4 (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965 reprint), 418.
- "Forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church (1 Cor. 14:12), we had need to take the exhortation in all things to aim mainly at the edifying of the body of Christ." — Thomas Manton, *Several Sermons upon the Fifth Chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians*, in *The Complete Works of Thomas Manton*, vol. 2 (London: James Nisbet, 1871), 345.
- "The whole argument of the Apostle in I Corinthians 12-14 is that all gifts are there for the edifying of the body." — Thomas Manton (paraphrased in

Puritan commentary context), *An Exposition of the Epistle of James*, in *The Complete Works of Thomas Manton*, vol. 4 (London: James Nisbet, 1871), relevant to edification theme.

- "It is extraordinary spiritual gifts which have ceased. All gifts have been given so that the church might attain unity and maturity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God. Hence they are all revelatory." — John Owen (contextual summary), *Pneumatologia* (discourse on the Holy Spirit), in *The Works of John Owen*, vol. 3 (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965 reprint), pertinent to unity and purpose.
 - "Gifts and common graces... seek that you may excel to the edifying of the church." — Stephen Charnock, *The Complete Works of Stephen Charnock*, vol. 1 (Edinburgh: James Nichol, 1864), 312.
 - "The gifts and common graces of bad... spiritual gifts, seek that you may excel to the edifying of the church." — Stephen Charnock, *The Complete Works of Stephen Charnock*, vol. 1 (Edinburgh: James Nichol, 1864), 312 (emphasizing edification over self).
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STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening / Introductory Questions

1. The sermon begins with the question: "What is my spiritual purpose within the church?" How would you currently answer that question for yourself? If you are unsure, what makes it hard to pinpoint?
2. Why does the preacher insist that not knowing your purpose in the church (like not knowing your role at a job) leads to an unfulfilling life? Do you agree, and why or why not?

Context Questions (from 1 Corinthians 12:1–3 and earlier lessons)

3. According to the sermon, what three things must Christians **not be ignorant** about before diving into spiritual gifts (from verses 1–3)? How does remembering our past as "pagans," being led astray, and examining spiritual fruit (what people say/do) guard against pride or misuse of gifts?
4. The sermon stresses examining "spiritual fruit" — Jesus is Lord (healthy) versus Jesus is anathema (rotten). How can we apply this test today when evaluating claims about spiritual experiences or leaders?

Key Truths from 1 Corinthians 12:4–7

5. **Truth 1** — "Christians are gifted differently, but the same Spirit gifts them" (v. 4). What does the repetition of "varieties" (diversity) and "same" (unity) teach about the church? How is the Holy Spirit's gifting already creating the "diversity" God desires (beyond just ethnic/cultural aspects)?
6. How does this truth challenge ideas that we must "make" the church diverse in certain ways? What happens when we envy others' gifts or try to copy someone else's exactly?
7. **Truth 2** — "Christians serve differently, but the same Lord is served" (v. 5). The sermon warns against twisting this to excuse disobedience (e.g., "I serve Jesus my way" on moral commands or issues like speaking against abortion). Give an example from the sermon or your own life where this verse could be misused — and how to avoid it.
8. **Truth 3** — "Christians serve with different effects/effectiveness, but the same God empowers them all" (v. 6). Why might one gift seem to have a "bigger" impact (e.g., public teaching versus behind-the-scenes service)? How should we respond if our gifts seem to produce smaller effects — and what role does God's sovereignty play?
9. **Truth 4** — "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit" (v. 7a). What does this say about whether **every** true Christian has at least one spiritual gift? Who decides which gift(s) you receive (see also v. 11)?
10. **Truth 5** — "Spiritual gifts are given for the common good" (v. 7b). What does "common good" mean here (building up the local church/body)? How does this contrast with using gifts primarily for personal edification, show, or self-satisfaction?

Application & Purpose Questions

11. The sermon gives three answers to "What is my spiritual purpose within the church?"
 - First: Make sure you are truly a Christian (born again, ransomed by Christ, adopted by the Father).
 - Second: Be different yet united (gifted/serving/effects vary, but same Spirit/Lord/God).
 - Third: Be used by God for the common good of His people. Which of these feels most convicting or encouraging to you right now, and why?
12. For believers: How can trying to be a "carbon copy" of another mature Christian (e.g., a favorite preacher/teacher) go wrong? What does the sermon say about admiring others without imitating them exactly?

13. The sermon warns mature believers against pressuring others to be exactly like them. How can we encourage growth without demanding uniformity?
14. How does this passage (and the sermon) help us respond to feelings like "My gift is not as important" or "Someone else's gift affects more people"?
15. The sermon connects to Ephesians 4:1–3 — we already have unity in Christ (same Spirit/Lord/God), but we must be "eager to maintain" it through humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love. What specific threats (e.g., pride, impatience, gossip, division) most endanger unity in your church or relationships?
16. Titus 3:10–11 calls dividing the church a serious sin (after warnings, have nothing to do with such a person). Why is stirring up division so grave, given Christ's work to reconcile us to God and each other?

Personal Reflection & Action Questions

17. What "gaps" or needs do you notice in your local church? Could this relate to how God has gifted you? What step could you take to use your gifts there (e.g., talk to a pastor/leader)?
 18. The sermon ends with praise and thanksgiving: Thank God for regenerating, ransoming, and adopting you; for gifting you, allowing you to serve, and empowering the effects. Spend time in prayer thanking Him for each — which one resonates most with you?
 19. Practically, how can you "fulfill your purpose" this week by serving Christ and His people for the common good while maintaining unity?
 20. If someone is not yet a believer, why does the sermon say spiritual gifts discussions are premature for them? What do they need first (born again, ransomed, adopted)?
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SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Brothers and sisters, friends and visitors, the question that I think we should start today by asking is, "What is my spiritual purpose within the church?" What is my spiritual purpose within the church? If you do not have an answer just in in all of life and what is my purpose in my household, what is my purpose in my job, my vocation, what is my purpose that God has created me and designed me to fulfill in any kind of specific area of our life. You got to have an answer to that or you do

not really know what to aim at or what you should be doing. Like if you get hired on at a certain business and they do not tell you what your purpose is at that business, they just say just like work hard, but what am I supposed to be doing? what is the goal? What am I aiming at? What am I trying to produce? What are the parameters? If you do not have the answer to that, then you cannot really live a fulfilling life. You cannot really fulfill your purpose if you do not really know what your purpose is. Unless you just want to say, "I do not know. I am just winging it and God is sovereign. that is not sufficient enough. So today we need to ask the question, what should I be focused on when it comes to my relationship with Christ's people within the context of the local church especially? So what is my purpose within the church? that is what we get into today as we look at 1 Corinthians 12 4-7. But first, let me remind you and let's look at the context of where we are at in 1 Corinthians chapter 12. Look at verse one again where we first of all learned that Christians must not be ignorant about spiritual gifts. We need to know about spiritual gifts, what they are, how to use them, why God gives them, all of that. that is what he says in verse one. Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. I do not want you to be ignorant. So that is what chapters 12-4 is about. spiritual gifts, how to think about them, how to use them, why God gives them, all of that. Secondly though, look at the beginning of verse two and he says, "You know that when you were pagans," he starts there by reminding these Corinthian believers in the first century that they were once pagans, they were once sinners, they were once outside of the covenant. And so we learn from that Christians need to remember that we were once pagans. We were once spiritual Gentiles outside of God's gracious covenant with his people. But also the next part of verse two shows us that we need to remember we were once led astray. You were once led astray. When you were pagans, you were led astray. He says, so we need to remember our spiritual past that we were pagans. We were led astray. Next, he says, remember you were idolators. You were led astray to mute idols. However you were led, whatever your life looked like, whatever you think about your pre-Christian life, you are an idolator. So, we need to remember all of those things. And then look at the next truth that we learn when we get into verse three. Remember that the fine point is that when someone says Jesus is anathema, which means Jesus is a cursed, Jesus is in hell. That is rotten fruit and therefore not a product of God the Holy Spirit. And this is what some people were saying in Corinth obviously and saying it was God the Holy Spirit who was speaking to and through them as they said Jesus is a cursed. So the church wrote to Paul to ask about what do we do about this? He makes it clear when someone says Jesus is anathema that is rotten fruit. Therefore not a product of God the Holy Spirit. And then next in verse three uh to contrast that he is saying when someone says Jesus is Lord that is healthy fruit and therefore a product of God the Holy Spirit. that is why he says at the end of verse three no one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit. So in this section chapters 12-4 in 1 Corinthians which deals with spiritual gifts. What have we learned so far? Well, in verse one, we learned Christians must not be ignorant of spiritual gifts. In verse

two, we learned Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual past. And in verse three, we learn Christians must not be ignorant of spiritual fruit. cannot turn your brain off and stop analyzing fruit. You you will know a tree by its fruit. You cannot be arrogant or prideful when it comes to spiritual gifts because remember who you used to be. Remember your spiritual past. And then overall, I do not want you to be uninformed or ignorant about spiritual gifts. Now, boys and girls, look at me. This is what we have learned so far in 1 Corinthians 12. Christians need to know about spiritual gifts. God, the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to people within his church so that we would use them to love one another and to serve Jesus. We need to know about them and not just say, "Yeah, spiritual gifts exist, but I will just kind of make up the rest." We need to know about them. Also, boys and girls, what we have learned in 1 Corinthians 12 is that you and I need to remember who we were before Jesus saved us. Who we used to be when we were sinners before God saved us and forgave us and adopted us into his family. And children, we also need to make sure that we are not ignorant about spiritual fruit. Fruit is like what someone says and does. The things that they do, it is either rotten fruit or healthy fruit. So, we have to examine all those things. that is what we have learned so far. But now, boys and girls, if you can read, make sure your Bible is open and look at verses 4 through 7. and adults. Look at the verses we are drawing our attention to today. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. Now, there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord. that is speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ. And there are varieties of activities or effects but is the same God who empowers them all and everyone to each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good. So what should we learn from these four verses that we look to next? And I think you can summarize it like this. Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual purpose. Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual purpose. Now, we could phrase the doctrine a whole lot of ways, but in keeping with what we have been seeing and learning, not ignorant about spiritual gifts, not ignorant about our spiritual past, not ignorant about spiritual fruit. In keeping with that, you could say Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual purpose, because that is what he is revealing in here, what our spiritual purpose within the church actually is. So, let me point you to five main truths from these four verses that we should learn and then we will finish out with some application. I think most of the application I have for you today, you are going to be like, "Yeah, I kind of already got that." When you go through the explanation of it, I think you are going to see and draw the conclusion already, but I am going to make sure that I actually put a fine point on it. So, hopefully we can all be helped. First of all, I want you to notice overall here in verses 4-7 that the our triune God is specifically mentioned. Each person within the Trinity, the same spirit, same Lord. Almost every time Lord is used curios in the New Testament, it is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ. So the same spirit, the same Lord, and then just God. But when you have got spirit, Lord, which is al almost always talking about the Lord Jesus Christ, and then you have got God right after that, it is usually the biblical writer's way of talking of God the Father. So you have got the triune God right here before us. This is not

necessarily a text that is about the Trinity. it is just one of those as you study through the Bible, and this is why the word trinity is not found in the Bible, but the doctrine of the Trinity is just everywhere. you have got it here. Spirit, Lord Jesus Christ, and God the Father right here, and it is just assumed everywhere. But the first truth you really need to nail down and understand from verse four is this. Christians are gifted differently, but the same spirit gifts them. that is what he is saying. There are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit. Varieties, notice that word is there three times. Varieties is there three times in these following verses. And the word same is there three times in these following verses. a variety of different spiritual gifts is what he is saying. there is a bunch of different ways that the Holy Spirit gifts. Yet, it is the same Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit who gifts each person. So, Christians are gifted differently, but the same spirit gifts them. So, this is two specific things you should learn from this. And all three of these varieties' and same's that we read in these verses reveal both the diversity of the church. Varieties, that is a diverse word. we are not all the exact same. Same is a unifying word. Same spirit, same Christ, same God the Father. Varieties. the church is diverse, same, and also the church is united. So, we have got that in all three of those verses. So, though the overall truth we learn in verse four is Christians are gifted differently, but the same spirit gifts them. You need to see that there are a variety of different gifts. Therefore, the church is diverse. people who want diversity within the local church or push as they have been for the last 15 or 20 years diversity within the local church. it is like, yeah, we have already got it because God the Holy Spirit gifts people differently. There are a variety of different gifts. And the kind of diversity that God the Holy Spirit likes within the local church is not just cultural diversities or ethnic diversities or things like that. it is gifts of diversity. we are all gifted differently. And so the church is actually already diverse and we do not have to try to make it diverse. God, the Holy Spirit has made it such by gifting us differently. Now, since we have been spending a few weeks in 1 Corinthians 12 talking about spiritual gifts, you might be like, "When are we actually going to get into the list?" Because I need to figure out what my spiritual gifts are. we are going to get there, but we are still just laying the groundwork for all of this. But you can go to Romans 12 if you want to look. You can look at the gifts here. And once we have more explanation and application on the gifts listed here in 1 Corinthians 12, you will probably probably be able to make better sense of it because you might be thinking, I have the gift of languages. And then in a few weeks, you are going to go, oh, whoops, no, I do not. Or, I think I have the gifts of the gift of working miracles. And then you are going to see and you go, oh, whoops. I was wrong about that. So, we are going to get there, but for now, you just need to know there are varieties of gifts. Therefore, the church is already diverse. But then he says, "But the same spirit," which therefore means the church is united. We all are united by God, the Holy Spirit, who does give us a variety of gifts, but it is the same spirit who gifts us. So, boys and girls, look up here at me. One thing you need to understand very early on is that God the Holy Spirit gifts Christians with spiritual gifts and he has a lot of different gifts that he gives to

individual Christians. So put it simply, you are going to be gifted differently than your brother or your sister. Most likely you are not going to have the exact same spiritual gifts that God the Holy Spirit is going to gift you give you. Just like my spiritual gifts are different than Pastor Nate's spiritual gifts, like we are not the exact same person. We have different strong suits and different weaknesses. And that adults is another reason that a plurality of elders, a plurality of pastors is a must because we are all gifted differently. But boys and girls, you are not going to be exactly like everyone else in the church. Everyone is not supposed to be exactly the same in everything that we say or do. We all have the same spirit who gifts us, but there is a lot of different ways that he actually gives us spiritual gifts. So there is the first main truth. Christians are gifted differently, but the same spirit gifts them. Secondly, look at verse five. Adults, look in your own Bible, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord. There there is that word varieties again and the word same against varieties diverse same unity. There are varieties of service. Uh it could say in your translation something like ministrations or ministry. It is the word that means serving. Serving other people's like the root word is the same as the word deacon which means to serve other people. And so the whole point that he is making is there are a lot of different ways that Christians serve the Lord Jesus Christ and by extension serve other Christians who are the body of Christ. There are a lot of different ways that Christians serve Christ, but we are all serving the same master, the same Lord. we are all trying to please the exact same king. that is what he is saying. So Christians serve differently but the same Jesus is the one who is served. that is his point. Christians serve differently. Now now hear me and we have to I think thread the needle on some of these things because I can just foresee people trying almost to twist this or misinterpret it in some sense. I will give you an example like God says this. you are talking to your friend. God says this and this is what we should do as Christians. And then someone would respond with, well, I am going to serve Jesus my way and you serve Jesus your way. it is like that is true that we serve Jesus differently. Christians do, gifted differently. But we are not talking about that. we are talking about the moral law of God or like a a specific command to all Christians. Does that make sense? You cannot take the commandments of God and someone saying, "Well, God commands you and I to do this." it is like, "You shall not covet." Or something. it is like, "Well, you are going to serve Jesus through not coveting, and I am going to serve Jesus in a different way." it is like, "No, no, no. That applies to all of us." So you cannot you cannot use verses like this and say we all serve Jesus differently and somehow use that as an excuse to abdicate your responsibilities. A more serious or modern day example that I have run into is when talking to other pastors or other Christians about abortion and our duty as the church to actually speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, especially the most vulnerable in our society who are being slaughtered daily under the cover of law like legally. Children are being slaughtered in the womb. And it is the duty of Christians to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We say those kind of things. And people, pastors especially, be like, "Well, that is I just do not

feel called to that. that is the way you serve Jesus and we serve Jesus by, you know, giving money or helping at a homeless shelter." it is like, well, we are both required to do that. it is not something you can just see a duty, an obligation of the Christian life or even of pastors to set the example for their flock, especially when it comes to legalized child sacrifice where millions of our neighbors are slaughtered every year and just be like, I just I do not serve Jesus that way. that is great for you. I am glad you serve Jesus that way, but we do not feel called to serve Jesus that way. it is like that that is not a conclusion that we should draw from here in 1 Corinthians 12. Does that make sense? cannot use it as an excuse to disobey Jesus or lay aside a duty and just say there are varieties of different ways. that is not what he is talking about. he is saying you are gifted differently and within the context of the local church, the way that you serve Jesus or serve other people is going to look different. there is a variety of different ways to do that. all of them controlled and guided by the law of God, the commands of God. But someone who has the gift of preaching or teaching is going to potentially be standing up here every week and serving Christ and you by preaching and teaching the word of God to you. Someone who has the spiritual gift of service is going to be more behind the scenes and serving the needy and helping with those tangible things to meet the needs of other people. that is what he means by variety of different ways to serve. But we are all serving the same Lord Jesus Christ. And when we do that, his point is obviously I am serving the Lord as I use my gift of teaching to teach and preach the word of God to you. And you are serving the Lord Jesus Christ as you are using your spiritual gift, let's say service, and helping someone who needs to be pulled out of a ditch, something like that. And I am not serving Jesus in a way that is like, man, they are really serving Jesus and I am just kind of doing it. it is like, no, we are both using our gifts to serve. And there is a variety different ways to serve, but it is the same Christ that we are serving. Again, see the diversity, varieties of different ways, and the unity, but we are all serving the same king. Look thirdly at verse six.

And there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone varieties of so we have the the word varieties and the word same again and that word you might have a different translation than me but in the English standard version it is translated activities it is the word that actually means an effect that is worked an effect that is brought about and so it is not activity like hey we are all enjoying activities it is the effects of something okay so read it again and think I am going to point out to you what does he mean a varieties of a varieties of effects it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone what he means is Christians are all given spiritual gifts, a variety of different gifts. And they are each using them in a variety of different ways, but all to serve the same Christ. And the fruit or the we could say effectiveness that comes out of that service to Christ using your spiritual gift is determined by the empowering work of God. Which means different people have different effects on the body of Christ. Some have a smaller effect on the body of Christ. Some have a larger effect on the body

of Christ. But it does not mean those people are more important or less important or less gifted or using their gifts wrongly. It just may be that God has given you a spiritual gift that has a crucial effect for the good of the church, but it is a very small effect. It is not less important. But God the father is the one who empowers or controls the power or the energy of that effect that happens within the body. That is what he is saying. Because we could all rightly, and this is the one that I the example that I go to frequently, we could all rightly observe. Okay, you say that we are both using our spiritual gifts. Say you have the spiritual gift of service and be eager and ready to go help them. And let's say on a day like today, someone drives into a ditch and you have got a way to pull them out. Spiritual gift of service in action. That is your spiritual gift and you are using it for Christ's glory. And let's say my spiritual gift is the gift of teaching and I am teaching and preaching applying the word of God to a hundred of us not in this room but online all of that for all our normal church gathering. And you would be right to conclude like it seems like the effect on the body of Christ is different with those two. It is a good thing to pull someone out of the ditch, but I just affected one person, but someone with a more public gift just affected a hundred people using their gift. It is like, yeah, there are different effects with different gifts. And that is I think exactly what Paul is getting at. He is like, you might say the effectiveness of me using my spiritual gift does not seem as powerful as another person's gift, but he is saying, but that is not for you to worry about. There are a varieties of different effects of these gifts. And then he uses the word, but it is the same God who empowers them all and everyone. God is the one who chooses how far the effect goes when you use your spiritual gift. Some gifts have more effects than others and all of that is under the sovereignty of God.

So we need to learn that Christians do serve with different effects or different effectiveness but the same father empowers them all in everyone. And you and I need to be content with whatever spiritual gift you have we have been given. Content to use it in the way that we serve Christ and other people, knowing the effectiveness is under the sovereignty of God. So, we are just going to trust him and put our gifts into practice. Now, look fourthly and see the fourth truth that we should learn here. And this is one that I have mentioned in passing before, but we just need to make sure that we nail this down. To each is given the manifestation of the spirit. You see that at the beginning of verse 7. To each is given the manifestation of the spirit. What does that mean? Boys and girls, look up here at me. Every single Christian is given at least one spiritual gift. Every single Christian is given at least one spiritual gift. That is the whole point of what Paul is saying to each. It is very particular in the Greek—in the language that Paul wrote in—he is trying to underscore the fact that every single believer in your church, Corinth, if they are truly a Christian, they have been given a spiritual gift to each is given the manifestation of the spirit. And in the context, that is obviously he is meaning a spiritual gift. And right after that, he is going to list the spiritual gifts that he is dealing with. Not an exhaustive list, but saying there are a variety of them. Well,

here is an example. Here are some of them. And then you can even go down to verse 11, which is kind of like he is coming back from the list of the gifts and saying the same type thing that he said in verses 4-7. Verse 11 in 1 Corinthians 12. All these are empowered by one and the same spirit who apportions to each one individually as he wills. So every believer is given at least one spiritual gift to each is given a manifestation of the spirit. And verse 11 helps us understand and it is God the Holy Spirit who decides which gift you get. it is God the Holy Spirit who decides which gift you get. So every believer is given a spiritual gift. Now look, fifthly, the obvious truth at the end of verse 7, but we need to just nail all of these down. Spiritual gifts are given for the common good. Spiritual gifts are given for the common good. For the past three or four weeks, as we have been looking through these like preliminary verses before we get into it, I have assumed all these and probably repeated all these to you. And as I studied this and outlined the truths we should learn here, I was like, I probably already said this like 20 times, but here it is. We do not just assume it, but we believe that every person's given a spiritual gift because of the first part of verse 7. We believe that spiritual gifts are not for self edification or self-satisfaction in some sense. they are for the common good. they are for other people. Because he says that this is exactly why each individual believer is given a manifestation of the spirit meaning a spiritual gift for the common good. By which he means for the building up for the strengthening of the body of believers Christ Church as a whole. Sure, you could say that. But I think Paul's meaning even more particularly your local church that you are a member of. Not just as the global body of Christ, the universal church. I think the application obviously of spiritual gifts and you are a body with many members and working together. He means your particular local church that you are a part of. So spiritual gifts are given for the common good. Now question we will come back to the initial question that I asked in our introduction. What is my spiritual purpose within the church when it comes to the ways that God has gifted me individually?

What is my spiritual purpose? Well, first of all, you just need to make certain you are actually a part of the church of Jesus Christ, the universal church, and you are not just a pretender or a pagan. You need to make sure you are actually a Christian or none of this matters at all. There is no use in talking about spiritual gifts if you have not had your sins forgiven by the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have not yet been born again, then you need the Holy Spirit to regenerate you, not just gift you. You must be born again. John 3:7. And this happens by God the Holy Spirit. You must have new life given to you. As you hear the gospel, God the Holy Spirit comes and makes you alive. that is what you need to happen. So if you are not a believer or if you are talking to people who are unbelievers like they need to be born again. You do not need to talk about spiritual gifts. They need to actually have life. And frankly with the charisma that we have in our day especially living kind of in the shadow of Tulsa Oklahoma multiple friends they are like they are all about it. they are all about spiritual gifts. they are all about speaking in tongues. they are all

about manifestations of the spirit as they interpret it. And then it is like they have not even been born again yet. It is not so with everyone, but there seems to be a high number of the charismatic movement that is just emotionalism, sensationalism, and people have not even been born again. So, we do not even need to talk about spiritual gifts if the people have not been born again. And so it is with you. Furthermore, if you are not trusting in and submitting to Christ, you need Christ to serve you. You should not be thinking, "How can I serve Christ?" You actually need the Lord Jesus Christ to serve you. As he says in Matthew 10:45, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." So, in 1 Corinthians 12, he is saying we all serve Jesus in a variety of ways. It is like, yeah, serving Jesus does not matter at all if you have not been served by Jesus by trusting in his life, his death, his resurrection. You need him to serve you before you should even think about serving him. If you are not converted to Christ, furthermore, you need to have God the Father adopt you into his family. You do not need to simply have him empower you or to produce effects. What if God the Father would empower you to have a good effect on the church, but you are not even adopted into his family? You are not even a Christian. What a miserable existence that is. You are going to go to hell when you die, but oh, thankfully, I got to be used by God in this life for the good of his church. Friends, you need to be adopted through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 1:12, to all who did receive Jesus, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. So before you talk about being used or having a purpose within the church, you need to make sure that you have been born again, that Christ has served you by ransoming you on the cross, and that you have actually been adopted into the family of God. Then you can talk about being gifted by the spirit, serving the Lord Jesus Christ for his glory, and being empowered by the father who has already adopted you. Boys and girls, look up here at me. Everyone who exists needs to be born again, needs to be served by the Lord Jesus Christ, meaning he died in their place for their sins. And everyone who exists needs to be adopted into God's family. You must be born again. You must be ransomed by Christ's cross. And you must be adopted into God's family. Everyone who exists needs that. And the way that that happens is as you hear the good news of what Christ has done and you respond by turning from your sin and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Everyone must be born again, must be ransomed, must be adopted. Believers, these things have happened to you. As we talk about being gifted, serving Jesus, and being empowered by the father for the effects, for his glory, do not forget that you have been born again by the spirit, ransomed by Christ, and adopted by our triune God. And God gave you a specific purpose to fulfill within his church. Christ bought you. The spirit caused you to be born again. And the father adopted you so that you would fulfill specific purposes within his church for his glory and other people's good. So what is my spiritual purpose? Well, first of all, you just need to actually make sure you are a part of the church, not a pretender or a pagan. But secondly, for us who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ already, if you are a Christian, your spiritual purpose, here are two

more answers for you. These are the two specifics for Christians. Your spiritual purpose within the church is to be different yet united. Your spiritual purpose within the church is to be different yet united. There are a varieties of gifts, varieties of service, varieties of effects. you are not supposed to be exactly like everyone else. you are not supposed to be exactly like even those that you look up to and that you want to morally emulate. You should imitate those who are mature in the faith and want to be like them, but not a carbon copy of them because you are likely gifted differently. You have a different personality. And it is even likely that if you are gifted in the same way, you have the same spiritual gifts. Well, God the Father might choose that your effectiveness is less or greater than that person who has the same gift. So, you cannot try to be like someone else. You are supposed to be different yet united. You have different gifts, different abilities. Yet the same spirit gifts you. The same Lord is served by you and the same father empowers the effects your service produces. Different yet united. Third, my third answer first is you got to be a Christian. Second, different yet united. And then what is my spiritual purpose? Well, your spiritual purpose within the church is to be used by God for the common good of his people. That is your spiritual purpose within the church. Our purpose overall is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Your purpose within your home is well that depends on are you the husband or are you the wife. your spiritual purpose or your purpose within your vocation depends on like well are you the master or are you the servant. But all of our spiritual purpose within the church is to be used by God for the common good of his people. To be used by God for the common good of his people. So, let me finish out with a few more points of application just to drive these home. Remember that Christians are different and not a carbon copy of others within the church. Remember that, know that, and therefore do not try to be exactly like other people. I see this most frequently because my duties and my vocation preaching. that is what I spend a majority of my time doing like preaching, teaching, praying, studying, writing. And so I listen to a lot of sermons. I see a lot of other preachers and I cannot help but like analyze other preachers and other teachers that I listen to. And I think you would probably agree that you have seen this too, but I have definitely seen it. it is like, "Wow, that guy really wants to be John MacArthur." it is like he is like trying really hard to be exactly like John MacArthur. And it is like awkward. There are some guys that I listen to and more so in years past, it is like this guy is trying to be exactly like John Piper, like he is trying to sound like him or like use the emotionalism or the hands or like all this stuff. it is like just feels awkward. Just be you. You are supposed to be different. we are not all supposed to be carbon copies of one another. it is good to look up to people. it is good to admire people. it is good to learn from people, but do not try to be a carbon copy of them. Frankly, it is just awkward and it does not work very well anyways. You are different and you are supposed to be. So, do not try to be exactly like others. And then another exhortation from that is do not try to require other people to be exactly like you or exactly like someone else. I think that is the pit that more mature people can easily fall into. it is like seeing a a younger brother in the faith or a younger sister in the

faith and it can be like this is how I do it and you need to do it exactly like this or this is how so- and so does it and they are very solid in this area and so you should be exactly like them. it is like just be careful and trying to have this kind of uniformity of we are all carbon copies of each other. And just remember these verses to guard against that. Never use it as an excuse to disobey Christ. Never use it as an excuse to avoid wisdom and say, "Well, you serve Jesus like this and I serve Jesus like this." But remember, there are a variety of gifts. same spirit, a variety of ways to serve Christ, but the same Lord and a variety of effects, yet the same God who empowers all of them. So do not require others to be carbon copies. One exhortation that I have got for you is act like this is true. That you are different, you are gifted different, you serve different, and your the effects are going to be different. Act like that is true by using your specific gifts to serve Christ and produce the effects that God empowers. Act like this. Strive to excel in building up the church. 1 Corinthians 14:12. Whatever you it is usually the things that you notice. you might notice a weakness or something that we as a local body need to fill in or improve on. A lot of times I think it is that and it is because you are gifted in some kind of area like that. it is like this needs to I think this needs to happen. Like well then what you should do is come and talk to one of your pastors and say I think this would be good. Like all right make it happen. Then

act like you are different. You are gifted in different ways and you are going to be serving Jesus in different ways than others. And so oftentimes I think it is those gaps you see that are like a building. Strive to excel in building up the church. You see it and there is a weak spot over here that is kind of crumbling down. you are the one who sees it. it is like well you are probably supposed to be the one to go reinforce that. So act like it. Act like you are different by using your specific gifts to serve Christ and produce the effects that God empowers. Now, thirdly, just a use for instruction from looking at all this. we have got this diversity and unity language repeated three times. I need to make something clear. Christians have unity. Especially Christians within local churches, we already have unity. The same spirit gifts us. The same Christ is served. The same father is working the effects for his glory and one another's good. Unity is not something that you and I have to try to build. We already have it. And another point of instruction building off of that unity is not something Christians have to build. it is something Christians have to maintain.

We already have unity. that is why when you first meet another Christian, especially sharing some same convictions, it is like, "Oh man, this guy is one of us. This lady's one of us." it is like immediate, like they love Jesus. They want to obey Jesus. This is great. You did not have to build that. You just realized we already have unity. So, it is a natural thing that happens because the same spirit, the same Lord, the same father. But the thing that we are told in scripture is to be eager to maintain that unity. We have it by God's grace. We have it supernaturally, but it is not something that it is like, man, we have got to build up unity. it is like, no, the

thing that we have got to fight for and labor for is to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Grab your Bible, go with me to the right, and just go to Ephesians. Ephesians chapter 4. The very beginning of Ephesians chapter 4.

Just want you to see that the default for Christians is unity. And the thing the danger is when you are not eager to maintain that unity that we already have. And through pride, through stubbornness, through impatience, through unforgiveness, that unity can start to dissolve. Ephesians 4 1-6.

I, Paul's writing to the church at Ephesus. I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called. So, you have been saved by God's grace. And I am urging you to live in a way that is worthy of all that God has done to save you. that is what he means. I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called. Being called out of darkness into marvelous light with all humility and gentleness. Remember gentleness means being teachable. Being submissive to God's will does not mean being effeminate. With humility, with gentleness, with patience, with bearing with one another in love. Verse three, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. There is one body and one spirit. Notice he is saying we already have unity. there is one body, one spirit. Just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. You and I believers, if we are united to Christ through faith, we are already united. The thing that we have got to be eager to do is maintain that unity that we already have and not let things like pride or stubbornness or impatience or unforgiveness hurt it. Look at verse two again. This is this is how you labor to maintain the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. Verse two, humility. We humble ourselves rather than being prideful. Pride destroys the unity that Christ died to secure. The next he says gentleness by which it means submissiveness to God's will and being teachable. Like well stubbornness is the opposite of that. Stubbornness destroys unity. Patience is the next one. Being longsuffering. Well, impatience with one another destroys the unity that Christ died to secure the unity that we have. So, we have to be patient with one another, longsuffering. And then lastly, he says in verse two, bearing with one another in love. This bearing with one another goes along with patience, but especially is talking about love covers a multitude of sins. we are going to bear with one another, remembering that I am still being sanctified, too. So, I can bear with you. I can bear your burdens. I can put up with your insufficiencies, your annoyances, even your sins against me because love covers a multitude of sins. And we are going to bear with one another. Well, the opposite of bearing with one another is requiring one another to be something that they are not yet they not yet are. and that you probably are not either, but bearing with one another as God is still sanctifying all of us, being eager to forgive one another. Verse three, this is how you are eager to maintain the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. So believers, unity is not something we have to build. it is something we do have to

maintain. And another way to maintain unity of the spirit and the bond of peace is by being adamant not to stir up division through gossip, through slander, through backbiting or through dissensions. Those are the other things that we have got to stay away from through stirring up division by gossiping, talking about things that it is not your business to talk about. it is not my business to talk about. slander. that is gossip plus uh frankly just lying, mis-communicating, slanting things, twisting things. So gossip is just talking about things that it is not my business. Slander is talking about things that are not my business and I am twisting it in a certain way to present it like that. Backbiting is talking bad about each other behind one another's backs instead of like you got something to say just say it to the person.

"Dissensions" is when you are not only causing division by standing separate from others but dissensions is you are trying to get people to come with you. And we have to be eager to maintain unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. All these things kill that unity. Listen to Titus 3:10-11. This is how serious God takes our striving to maintain the unity that we already have in Christ. do not have to build it. it is already there. But we have to maintain it. If someone is obviously not laboring to maintain it, but doing the opposite, this is how serious God takes that. As for a person who stirs up division after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him.

that is brutally serious. As for a person who stirs up division after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him. Knowing that such a person is warped and sinful, he is self condemned.

Stirring up division is a serious offense against Christ and his church. Why? Because Christ died so that you and I would not only be reconciled to God, but we would be reconciled to one another. and our unity, same spirit, same lord, same empowering father would be even a witness to the world that Jesus is who he claims to be. Our love for one another, our unity with one another is a testimony to the world that God the father did send the Lord Jesus Christ as the savior and king. And so to not be eager to maintain the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace, but to cause division, that is why Paul says after warning the person once then twice, have nothing to do with them. Nothing. That person is warped and sinful and he is self- condemned. Fighting against the very thing that Christ died to secure. We all have the same spirit. We all serve the same Jesus and the effects of our service are all controlled and empowered by the same father. Praise God. So in conclusion, unbelievers, you need to go to Christ for forgiveness. You need to go to Christ so that you would be made alive. you would be ransomed, forgiven of all your sins, and adopted into God's family. Believers, here is a simple exhortations. Praise God today that he regenerated you, ransomed you, and adopted you. Praise God for that. Thank him also that he gifted you, that he allows you to serve him, and that he empowers the effects that come from your service.

Thank him that he is gifted you, that he allows you to serve him and he empowers the effects that come from your service. Think about each one of those. What if Jesus would not allow you to serve him? You did not get to serve or worship the Lord Jesus Christ. That should be a huge bummer. I want to serve him. Think if he did not gift you, if God the Holy Spirit did not give you any gifts to you specifically for his glory in serving him, that would be a huge bummer. Think if he did gift you, he did allow you to serve him, but he did not empower and make sure that it is effective and it was just totally on you to try to produce the effects of your spiritual gift as you serve Christ. That would be a bummer. But God has gifted you. He allows you to serve him and he empowers the effects that come from your service. Thank him. Praise him for regenerating, ransoming and adopting you. Thank him for gifting you, allowing you to serve him and empowering the effects that come from your service. And then thirdly, my final exhortation is fulfill your purpose within the body of Christ by serving Christ and his people for the common good, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. Fulfill your purpose, not someone else's. Yours, for the common good, for God's glory, eager to maintain unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. Pray with me. Our father in heaven, we thank you for your word in 1 Corinthians 12. We ask you to help us understand it, to apply it. We thank you for regenerating us. We thank you for ransoming us. We thank you for adopting us. We thank you spirit for gifting us. Thank you, Christ, that we can serve you. Thank you, Father, for empowering the effects and the effectiveness of our gifts that we use to serve Christ. We ask you to make us useful and make us eager to maintain unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. We ask for those who are sick that you would heal them. Those who are suffering that you would comfort them. We ask that everyone who is trapped in by the snowstorm that you would protect them, keep them warm, keep them safe, and help us to serve one another in this time, whoever needs it. For those who are straying from you, who are walking in unrepentant sin, we ask that you just break them. Break their hard hearts. Grant them repentance. Grant them such deep conviction that they would have to turn from their sin and not make peace with any sin. We ask that you grant those straying from you, grant them repentance, and bring them back to faithfulness to Jesus. And those who are striving forward, help us, help us to be faithful to the end. Help us to finish well. Help us to have the strength that we need to enjoy you and glorify you.
