

## THE CHURCH-GIFTED, UNITED, ORDERED AND LOVING

1 Corinthians Chapters 12, 13 and 14

Westland Baptist Church

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February 25, 2024

### • THE CHURCH IS GIFTED

**Chapter 12 is not promoting spiritual gifts.** Chapter 12 is promoting unity, coordinating of the gifts of the body of Christ by The Spirit for the 'common good'. 12:4-7, 12-14

*<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

*<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,<sup>[a]</sup> and to still another the interpretation of tongues.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

### • THE CHURCH IS UNIFIED

*<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.*

Spiritual gifts are diverse but are intended to be humbly used together with one another (in the same manner as a physical body functions together) to carry out the mission of Christ for His Church. 12:4-31

### • THE CHURCH IS ORDERLY

**God wants His Church to do the right things, the right way and for the right reasons.**

**God is big on order. Chapter 14**

God expects gifts to operate in an **orderly manner** so that the lost ones are not confused or 'put off' or literally scared at what they see when they come to Church. 14:23

*<sup>23</sup> So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?*

God wants to use the beauty of the church functioning well together to **draw people to himself**. 14:24-25

*<sup>24</sup> But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, <sup>25</sup> as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"*

God has given spiritual gifts so that **the church will be built up**. 14:26

*<sup>26</sup> What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*

- **ABOVE ALL, THE CHURCH IS CHARACTERIZED, MOTIVATED BY AND DRIVEN BY LOVE**

*Love is the more excellent way.* 12:31,

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.* 13:13

We can lose the big picture which is **Love one another**. Chapter 13

Clanging symbols: if we raise the dead, preach the best sermon, teach the best Bible lesson, speak in tongues

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*