

Manifold Ministries

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Commission
 - When it comes to the great commission of Christ Jesus - it's important for every Christian to realize that...
 - ...the church is called to accomplish many different ministries - in order to disciple those who trust in Jesus Christ.
 - And while it's true that the great COMMISSION begins with the MISSION to reach those who have yet to trust in Jesus Christ...
 - ...it's also true that the great commission also includes the ongoing discipleship of those who repent - and trust in Jesus Christ.
 - With this as the goal - every Christian church should include a manifold of ministries...
 - ...that are designed to turn Christian converts into mature disciples who are able to serve our Savior.
- Ministries
 - This of course includes the education of doctrinal instruction - which is presented by the pastor of the church.
 - Not only that - but - the discipleship of doctrinal instructions should also be provided by teachers - who are equipped to disciple others.
 - The church should include the Music ministry - that leads us to learn how to properly sing the praises of our Savior.

- And the church should also include a hospitality ministry - that provides support to those who are suffering.
- And listen - this is just a scratch on the surface of the manifold ministries that should be employed...
- ...as Christians set out to accomplish the great commission of Christ Jesus.

II. Outline

● Points

- Connection
- Here in our text today - - we find Paul - helping his audience to connect the dots...
- ...between the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit distributes to the disciples of Christ...
- ...and the manifold ministries that help us to function like the individual members of Christ's mystical body.
- With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles - to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
- ...and as we make our way to the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians...
- ...I wanna take some time to put our text - back into it's context.

III. Apostles

● Set up

- Context
- I'll remind you that we spent 8 weeks - studying the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit distributes to those who trust in Jesus.

- And it was in our last study - where Paul shifted our attention from that list of charismatic gifts...
- ...to the way that every Christian has been called to function together - like individual members of the same body.
- Now - here in our text today - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand how the gifts we've received were given...
- ...so that we can accomplish our calling - according to the ministry that the Lord is leading us to engage in.
- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 12 look with me beginning there at verse 27 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

1Co 12:28 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.

1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

1Co 12:30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

1Co 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

• Manifold

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - connecting the dots - between the diversity of charismatic gifts that Christians receive...
- ...and the manifold ministries that the Holy Spirit uses - to build up the body of Christ.
- Just to be clear - the word - manifold - speaks of diversity - - and variety.

- And it's here in the final section of this chapter - where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...the Holy Spirit has appointed different disciples to accomplish a variety of ministries...
 - ...according to the charismatic gifts that we've received.
- Ministries
 - With this as our focus - let's look back at the fourth verse of this same chapter - because - it's beginning there at verse 4 - where Paul declared...

1Co 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
 1Co 12:5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
 1Co 12:6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
 - Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that the Holy Spirit distributes a diversity of gifts...
 - ...so that Christians can accomplish different ministries - that include a diversity of activities that take place within the church.
 - With this in mind - we're going to spend our time today - considering the manifold ministries that the Lord has ordained...
 - ...so that the body of Christ can function properly.
- Ordained
 - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 27 - where Paul declared...

1Co 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
 1Co 12:28a And God has appointed these in the church...
 - Now - that word - appointed - was translated from a Greek word - which can also be rendered - ordained.

- This word was used of that which is put in place - - or established.
 - And it's the same word that Paul used back in verse 18 - where he assured us that...
 - ...God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
 - God is the One Who ordains the leaders of the church - and God is the One Who puts them in place.
- Apostles
 - With this in mind - let's consider how Paul expounded upon this fact - by informing us that...

1Co 12:28a ...God has appointed these in the church: first apostles...
 - That word - apostles - was translated from the Greek word - apostolos - which simply means - messenger.
 - And while it's true that this word was typically used - in reference to the 12 apostles of Christ Jesus...
 - ...the same Greek word was also used of those - who were sent out - to spread the message of our Messiah.
 - For example - Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles - and Barnabas was also called - an apostle.
- Office/Gift
 - Now - just to be clear about this distinction - the office of the 12 apostles has been closed - since the death of the apostle John.
 - At the same time - this word was also used of those who were sent out - with a suite of spiritual gifts - that we might call the apostolic gift.
 - That's how Paul was using the word - here in our text today - as he referred to those who were empowered with this gift...

- ...so that they could spread the gospel of grace in Jerusalem - and in all Judea and Samaria - and to the end of the earth.
- And so we see that the church was first established by those who were sent out - as the messengers of our Messiah.

● Application

- Paul/Barnabas
- Let's consider how Paul and Barnabas were sent out with an apostolic calling by the leaders at the church in Antioch.
- It's in Acts chapter 13 - beginning at verse 1 - where Luke writes...

Act 13:1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Act 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Act 13:3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Act 13:4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

- Here we see that - Barnabas and Saul - - who was also known as Paul - were sent out - according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- And it's in Acts chapter 14 - where Luke refers to both men as apostles - or - messengers...
- ...who were sent out by the Holy Spirit - to spread the message of our Messiah.
- From this - we can see that - the apostolic calling is a missional ministry that is fulfilled by those...

- ...who are empowered with the apostolic gift set - which enables them to spread the gospel in unreached areas of the world.

● Transition

• Points

- And while it's true that the Lord first appointed and empowered apostles to take the message of our Messiah into the world...
- ...it's also true that He also appointed and empowered prophets - to proclaim the truth of God's word - in the church.
- This brings us to the second ministry that Paul mentioned - here in this list.
- Look with me again - there at verse 28 - where Paul informs us that...

IV. Prophets

● Text

1Co 12:28 ...God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets...

• Prophets

- Now - that word - prophets - was translated from the masculine noun form of the Greek word that Paul used back in verse 10...
- ...where he referred to those who have received the charismatic gift of prophecy.
- And while it's true that the office of prophet ended with John the Baptist...
- ...it's also true that the Holy Spirit is now empowering some Christians with the gift of prophecy...

- ...so that they can accomplish this ministry - that enables some believers to boldly proclaim the word of God.
- And in order to better grasp this ministry - let's consider the promise presented by the prophet Joel.

● Application

• Prophecy

- It's in Joel chapter 2 - beginning at verse 28 - where the prophet Joel declared...

Joe 2:28 "...it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.

Joe 2:29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

- Here in these verses - we find the prophet Joel - prophetically pointing to the day when the Holy Spirit would be poured out on the church.
- And it was on the day of Pentecost - when the apostle Peter pointed back to this prophecy of Joel...
- ...by assuring the people in Jerusalem - that this prophecy was being fulfilled - right before their very eyes.
- What this means is that - the Holy Spirit is now empowering some Christians with the gift of prophecy...
- ...so that those who are called to this ministry - can boldly proclaim the word of God - here in the church age.

● Transition

• Points

- This brings us to the third ministry that Paul mentioned here in our text today.
- And with this as our focus - let's take another look there at verse 28 - where Paul informed us that...

V. Teachers

● Text

1Co 12:28 ...God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...

• Teachers

- Now - that word - teachers - was translated from the Greek word - - did-as'-kal-os.
- In this context - - did-as'-kal-os - - was used of those who teach the truth of God's word.
- This is the same word that Paul used - in 2nd Timothy chapter 1 - it's verse 11 - where he informs us that he was...
 - ...appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a **teacher** of the Gentiles.
 - From this - we can see that Paul was not only empowered with an apostolic gift...
 - ...but - he was also empowered with a gift of teaching.

• The Gift

- Just to be clear - the gift of teaching is the supernatural ability to explain - expound - and apply the truth of God's Word.
- This is a gift that the Holy Spirit provides to pastors - as well as to those who are appointed to teach in the context of congregational discipleship.

- Remember - the great commission of Christ includes the call to make disciples of those who trust in Jesus.
- And with this as the goal - the Holy Spirit provides some Christians with the gift of teaching...
 - ...so that believers can receive the Biblical instructions that are necessary - for spiritual maturity.
 - And listen - this gift is given to believers who are male - and female.
- Discipleship
 - Proof of my point can be found in the pastoral epistle of Titus - - where Paul encouraged the church to provide gender specific discipleship.
 - It's Titus chapter 2 - beginning at verse 1 - where Paul directed pastor Titus to this end - by declaring...

Titus 2:1 ...as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

Titus 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

Titus 2:3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—

Titus 2:4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Titus 2:5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Titus 2:6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,

Titus 2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

Titus 2:8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

- As we consider these instructions - there should be no doubt that every healthy church will provide gender specific discipleship.
- What this also means is that - the Holy Spirit will provide the gift of teachings to both men - and women...

- ...so that the mature believers who are men - can disciple the younger men...
- ...and at the same time - the mature believers who are women - can disciple the younger women.
- And it's for this reason that I encourage you to plug in to our men's and women's ministries - respectively.

● Application

• Warning

- At the same time - we should also consider the warning that James presented in the third chapter of his epistle.
- It's James chapter 3 - verse 1 - where he declared...

Jas 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

- Christian - listen - those who step up to teach others - are simultaneously signing up to be scrutinized - by those they teach.
- And listen - those present those teachings in a public setting - are inviting the scrutiny of those who hear their instructions.
- That being the case - it's important for Christians to make sure that they've received the gift of teaching...
- ...before they take on this task of teaching others about the Bible.
- Trust me when I tell you that every teacher will find themselves receiving a stricter judgment.

● Transition

- Points

- This brings us to the fourth ministry that Paul mentioned here in our text today.
- And with this as our focus - let's take another look there at verse 28 - where Paul informed us that...

VI. Miracles

● Text

1Co 12:28 ...God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles...

• Miracles

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - referring to the ministry of those who are empowered to work miracles.
- That word - miracles - was translated from the same Greek word that Paul used - back in verse 10 - where he referred to the working of miracles.
- It's the Greek word - Dynamis - which was used in reference to the power for performing the miraculous works of the Lord.
- What this means is that - those who have received this Charismatic gift...
 - ...have been appointed in the church - to perform the miracles of the Lord.
 - And while some Christians insist that the age of miracles has ceased...
 - ...the Lord Jesus assured us that those who trust in Him - will receive the power we need to work the works of God.

• Works

- Let's consider how Jesus put it in John chapter 14 - it's verse 12 - where He declared...

Jhn 14:12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

- Now - I'll remind you that - the works Jesus accomplished during the days of His earthly ministry included a multitude of miracles.
- For example - He turned water into wine - - and He calmed the storm - with the words of His mouth.
- Jesus fed thousands of people - after multiplying a few small fish and five small loaves of bread.
- Jesus walked on water - - and He raised Lazarus from the dead.
- And with all of this in mind - the Lord Jesus assured us that those who trust in Him - will accomplish greater works than these.

● Application

- Faith
- This was the point that Paul was making - in Galatians chapter 3 - it's verse 5 - where he asked...

Gal 3:5 ...He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—

- It was there at the church in Galatia where the Holy Spirit was empowering some - to work miracles - according to their faith.
- And listen - there is no biblical reason for us to think that the Holy Spirit has ceased to accomplish the works of God - with dynamis power.
- And to the contrary - a careful study of church history helps us to see that Jesus was right...
- ...when He assured His audience - that those who trust in Him - will accomplish more miracles than He.

- This of course includes the miracles that Paul referred to as gifts of healings.

● Transition

- Points
- This brings us to the fifth ministry that Paul mentioned here in our text today.
- With this as our focus - let's take another look there at verse 28 - where Paul informed us that...

VII. Healings

● Text

1Co 12:28 ...God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings...

- Healings
- As we take another look at this list of ministries - we must not fail to make the connection - between the gifts of healings found here in verse 28...
- ...and the gifts of healings that Paul mentioned - back in verse 9.
- That word - gifts - was translated from the Greek word - Charisma - - and it's here in verse 28...
- ...where we find Paul - connecting the dots - between the charismatic gift of healings...
- ...and those who are appointed to perform these specific miracles.
- Jesus
- If you've spent time studying the gospels of Matthew - Mark - Luke - and John - then you know that the Lord Jesus healed many people.
- He healed those who were blind - deaf - and mute.

- He healed those who were lame - and He healed those who were suffering from leprosy.
- Jesus healed a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years - and He healed a twelve year old girl - who had died.
- Jesus healed the paralyzed man who was lowered through a roof by his friends - and He healed a woman who was crippled for 18 years.
- Without debate - the Lord Jesus healed many - many people - during the days of His earthly ministry.
- Others
 - We also find the followers of Christ - healing those who were sick.
 - For example - the apostle Peter and the apostle John healed a man who was lame from birth.
 - The apostle Peter also raised a deceased lady from the dead - and Paul healed a Paralyzed Man in the city of Lystra.
 - And listen - there's an ever growing list of healings that have taken place throughout the entire church age.
 - This includes Philip Melanchthon - the prominent German reformer who was a close friend of Martin Luther.
 - After becoming gravely ill - Luther prayed for him - and Melanchthon experienced a sudden, dramatic physical recovery.
 - And then there's Andrew Murray - who suffered from a debilitating throat affliction - until he received the healing touch of the Lord.
- Healings
 - Time would fail us - to consider every account of a the supernatural healings that have taken place - since the beginning of the church age.

- And while it's true that the ultimate healing will take place - on the day when every born again believer receives our glorified bodies...
- ...it's also true that the Lord has appointed - and empowered some believers with gifts of healings...
- ...so that they can exercise this charismatic gift - according to the will of God.
- And with this as the goal - the Holy Spirit led James - to present us with clear instructions...
- ...for how we should seek the benefits of this charismatic gift.

● Application

• Prayer

- I'll remind you that - it's in James chapter 5 - beginning at verse 14 - where James asked...

Jas 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

- So - according to James - those who are sick should ask the elders of the church to pray for them.
- That's right - those who are sick haven't been called to attend a healing ministry - where so-called faith healers are quick to take up a collection.
- No - instead - the sick Christian has been directed to receive prayer from the leaders of their church.
- And according to these instructions - those who are praying for the sick should anoint them with oil...

- ...and that's interesting - because - anointing oil is an old testament symbol of the Holy Spirit.
- Saved
 - Those who are sick should follow these instructions - because - this is the prescription for the how the Holy Spirit heals in the church age.
 - We should ask the leaders of the church to anoint our heads with oil - as they pray for the gift of healing to be poured out.
 - And according to James - the prayer of faith will save the sick - as the Lord raises them up - on the day of their resurrection.
 - And while it's possible that the Lord will provide temporary healing while we're here in this world...
 - ...the ultimate healing will take place on the day when we receive our glorified bodies - according to the glorious plan of the Lord.

● Transition

- Points
 - This brings us to the sixth ministry that Paul mentioned here in our text today.
 - With this as our focus - let's take another look there at verse 28 - where Paul informed us that...

VIII. Helps

● Text

1Co 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps...

- Helps

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
- ...the Lord has spiritual gifted some Christians to play a supportive role - by appointing them to the position of Helps.
- That word - helps - was translated from a Greek word - which refers to those who play a supportive role.
- The same word can also refer to the relief - or the aid - that helpers provide to those they help.
- What this means is that - the gift of helps is the supernatural ability to lend a hand to those who are leading...
- ...so that the practical aspects of the ministry can be accomplished.
- Luke
 - As we consider Paul's apostolic calling - we must not fail to recognize how many Christians came alongside - to help him.
 - This included Priscilla and Aquila - Urbanus - Tryphena and Tryphosa - Tychicus - Onesimus - Aristarchus Justus - Philemon and Demas.
 - At the top of the list is Luke - who faithfully serves as Paul's physician and scribe.
 - And as we consider the incredible ministry that Paul accomplished as he spread the gospel throughout the gentile world...
 - ...there should be no doubt that Luke played a major role - as he exercised the gift of helps.

● Application

- Mark
 - We also find Paul - mentioning Mark - in his second letter to pastor Timothy.

- It's in 2nd Timothy chapter 4 - beginning at verse 9 - where Paul declared...

2Ti 4:9 Be diligent to come to me quickly;

2Ti 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world,
and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for
Dalmatia.

2Ti 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he
is useful to me for ministry.

- Now - it's important to remember that - Mark was a helper - who departed from the first mission trip of Paul.
- He also became a source of contention and division - when he signed up for the second missionary trip.
- Fast forward 19 years - - and we find Paul - describing Mark as useful for the ministry.
- From this - we can see how the Holy Spirit is the Helper - who provides the gift of helps - which helps Christians to help others.
- And He actually appoints helpers - like Mark - and Luke - to help those who are called to lead.

● Transition

- Points
- This brings us to the seventh ministry that Paul mentioned here in our text today.
- With this as our focus - let's take another look there at verse 28 - where Paul informed us that...

IX. Administrations

● Text

1Co 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations...

- Administrations

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - referring to those who are appointed to the position of administration.
- Just to be clear - the Greek word which was rendered - administrations - can also be translated - directorship - or government.
- The scholars who created the New Living Translation - rendered the same Greek word - as the gift of leadership...
- ...while the scholars who created the New International Version - rendered the same Greek word - as Guidance.
- And so - while it's true that we don't have a list of scriptures that help us to understand the way that this word was used...
- ...the scholars seem certain that this word has to do with administrative guidance - which is necessary for ministry.

- Application

- Steering
- The original Greek word - which was rendered - administrations - was used of those who were skilled at steering a ship.
- Imagine for a moment - being tasked with the responsibility of steering a ship through dangerous reefs - and tumultuous waters.
- And now let's consider this same responsibility - - and yet - in a spiritual context.
- Those who serve as administrators - are responsible for steering the direction of the church...

- ...all the while steering clear of the dangerous reefs of false doctrines and tumultuous waters of worldliness.
- It's for this reason the the Holy Spirit provides this gift to pastors - - and others in leadership positions.
- Kittel
 - Theologian Gerhard Kittel explained the meaning of this Greek word as...

“...gifts which qualify a Christian to be a helmsman to his congregation, i.e., a true director of its order and therewith of its life”
 - From this - we can see that - the gift of administration is given to those who are raised up to guide a congregation - according to truth.
 - And listen - this includes the wise counsel that is given - according to the instructions of God's word.
 - Proof of my point can be found in the Septuagint translation of three passages...
 - ...in which this same Greek word is used in reference to the “wise counsel” or “direction” of those...
 - ...who give godly guidance - that helps others to make righteousness decisions.

● Transition

- Points
 - This brings us to the eighth and final ministry that Paul mentioned here in our text today.
 - With this as our focus - let's take another look there at verse 28 - where Paul informed us that...

X. Tongues

● Text

1Co 12:28 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.

• Chapter 14

- When we get to chapter 14 - we're going to learn more about the gift of tongues - and the interpretation of tongues.
- Paul actually expounds upon this set of spiritual gifts - so that the Christians in Corinth might better understand that...
- ...those who speak in tongues - must also allow for interpretation - if others are going to be edified by this gift.
- Not only that - but - Paul also points out that the Holy Spirit might also use the gift of tongues...
- ...as a sign for the unbelievers - who speak a foreign language.
- And it's for this reason that Paul referred to this gift - as a variety of tongues.

• Varieties?

- Just to be clear - Paul wasn't suggesting that there are varieties of tongues - in the sense that there are different gifts of tongues.
- Some Christian believe that there's a gift of tongues - and at the same time...
- ...they believe that there's a separate prayer language which can be exercised in public - without interpretation.
- When we get to 1st Corinthians 14 - we'll soon see that this is not the case at all.
- There is one gift of tongues - and this includes a variety of languages that are both earthly - and heavenly.

- We'll spend more time studying this gift when we get to chapter 14.

● Transition

- Points
 - For now - I wanna spend the final minutes of this study - focusing on the application that Paul presented - here in this chapter.
 - With this as our focus - let's take one last look at 1st Corinthians 12 - beginning there at verse 29 - where Paul asked...

XI. Application

● Text

1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

1Co 12:30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

1Co 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

- Rhetorical
 - Here in the final verses of this chapter - we find Paul - presenting a series of rhetorical questions...
 - ...concerning the spiritual gifts that enable us to serve our savior - in the manifold ministries of our Messiah.
 - And just to be clear - it's crucial for every Christian to realize that - there are different ministries for the different members of the body.
 - Some have been gifted with the apostolic gift set - so that the work of missions can be accomplished.
 - Others have received the gift of prophecy - so that the word of God can be boldly proclaimed to the people of God.

- Some are given the gift of teaching - so that believers are being disciplined...
- ...while others are empowered with gifts of miracles - and healings - for the edification of the church.
- Desire
 - In light of these things - Paul encouraged every Christian to earnestly desire the best gifts.
 - I like the way in which the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 31 - they put it like this...

1Co 12:31 But earnestly desire and strive for the greater gifts [if acquiring them is going to be your goal]. And yet I will show you a still more excellent way [one of the choicest graces and the highest of them all: unselfish love].

- Knowing that we've received the charismatic gifts that are necessary for our calling...
- ...Paul encouraged us to realize that - there's nothing wrong with desiring the best gifts - - so long as we're walking in love.
- And this of course was Paul's way of transitioning to the love chapter - which we'll begin to study next week.
- And it's in the first section of 1st Corinthians chapter 13 - where we learn that...
 - ...the person who is exercising spiritual gifts - without the love of the Lord - is like a noisy - clanging cymbal.

XII. Conclusion

- Wrap up
- Content

- Christian - listen - if you're jealous of another Christian - because they have the spiritual gifts that you want...
- ...I encourage you to realize that - you might be failing to accomplish your calling in Christ - - because of envy.
- Remember - the Holy Spirit distributes the charismatic gifts to each believer - as He wills.
- And the Lord is the One Who has set the members in the body just as He pleased.
- With that being the case - we will all do well to embrace the ministry that the Lord has given us...
- ...so that we might all work together - to accomplish the great commission of Christ.
- And in this way - we will function in the way that we should - according to the manifold ministries of our Messiah.