

I Corinthians 12 – 23 January 2022

“Order In The Church Pt 3 of 5”

“Unity In Diversity”

Introduction

*In this very practical book, we’ve come to Chapters 11-14, which is all about Order In The Church

-Chap 11:1-16 – We saw God’s ordained authority

-Chap 11:17-34—We saw importance of Communion

-Chap 12-14 – We’ll see the detailed order for God’s

gifting to each member of the Church

*Spiritual Gifts are found many places in Bible, & the drive here is unity of mission thru a diversity of gifts

***Today 3 key aspects to the Church’s unity thru diverse gifting**

1st aspect is that our source of diverse gifting is one Lord (Vs 1-11)

Read Vs 1

1. These are spiritual not natural talents
2. We shouldn’t neglect OR abuse the gifts

Read Vs 2-3

1. *'Carried Away'* - There's a control over us from the spiritual realm from idols unto sin or from Jesus unto salvation
2. So, Jesus governs all the gifts of the Spirit
3. Jesus embodied living by the gifts of the Spirit
 - a. At His baptism - Jesus body baptized / H.S. comes upon Him
 - b. Act 1:1 tells us that Acts is what Jesus continues to do
 - c. So the Gospels are Jesus' corporeal body empowered by Spiritual gifts and WE are His corporate body empowered by Spiritual gifts
 - d. *'Dumb idols'* – They couldn't speak or relate to you, but the Holy Spirit can thru gifts

Read Vs 4-6

1. Notice the Trinity is seen here
 - a. There's unity in the diversity of the Godhead
 - b. Difference roles, but one in purpose

2. The word gifts is *charisma* also translated grace
 - a. **Characteristics given to the person**
 - b. Rom 12:6-8 list
3. The word administrations is *diakonia* also translated deacon skills
 - a. **Jobs the person can perform**
 - b. Some are listed in Eph 4:11
4. The word operations is *energema* also translated workings
 - a. **Skills or powers used on the job**
 - b. Many are listed here in vss 8-11
5. We may have the same gift yet exercise it in difference ways from each other
 - a. Even 1 person can use a gift in multiple ways
 - b. Jesus healed blind men in different ways
6. Even though our gifting is different from each other, it all comes from the Lord
 - a. Gifts are to glorify Jesus thru the Spirit

Read Vs 7

1. Gifts are given specifically but they're intended for the profit of the whole church
2. No one is excluded from the gifts of the Spirit

Read Vs 8-11

1. These are many of the different operations or skills of the Spirit but they all come from the Spirit as He chooses to give them out individually
2. Word of Wisdom
 - a. Knowing how to properly apply truth
 - b. Acts 23:34 = Paul saw Sadducees & Phar
3. Word of Knowledge
 - a. Knowing something without being told it
 - b. Act 5 – Peter to Ananias & Sapphira
4. Faith (not just saving faith)
 - a. Boldness to act for God around great adversity
 - b. Act 3:16 – Peter / John heals blind man
 - c. George Mueller
5. Gifts of Healings
 - a. Physical healing of illness
6. Miracles
 - a. Doing what breaks the laws of nature
 - b. Interesting that healings/miracles are often seen in mission field for God to leave a witness

7. Prophecy
 - a. Speaking forth what came from God
 - b. We only prophesy in part (I Cor 13:9)
 - c. This isn't speaking of new revelation, that's complete (Heb 1:1-2)
 - d. Remember, the heart or center of prophecy is to speak for and of Jesus (Read Rev 19:10)
8. Discerning of spirits
 - a. Judging spiritual truthfulness from spiritual lies coming from people (False Prophets)
 - b. Not the policemen, but the immune system
9. Tongues – other languages
 - a. Tongues is about individual worship
 - b. Tongues from the Spirit wouldn't interpret Himself in the preaching church service
 - c. This stuff is light compared to the Word of God (Read Jer 23:28)
10. Interpretation of tongues
 - a. Translating other languages
 - b. Let all be done decently, orderly (I Cor 14:40)

2nd aspect is that our example of unity is a diverse physical body (Vs 12-27)

Read Vs 12-13

1. Your physical body has many parts, but it's one body, so the same for Christ
 - a. At different times the church is pictured as the temple of God, the bride of Christ, the building of God & here the body of Christ
 - b. The life of Jesus on earth is a spiritual body
 - i. He is the head & we make up the body parts
2. Just b/c it's the Spirit that baptized us into the body of Christ at salvation doesn't rule out further baptisms of the Spirit to empower us with gifts
 - a. Read Eph 5:18 – be ye being filled
 - b. Read Acts 1:8 – They were already saved

Read Vs 14-18

1. Body functions together-cause bigger than self
2. Each member has a valuable role to play
3. Should rid us of pride/envy-God placed us here

Read Vs 19-20

1. Can't be & shouldn't strive to be all the same.
2. We should strive to be what God's made us

Read Vs 21-25

1. For our physical body, we tend to help along the weak, despised or uncharming parts, so your whole body is up to the same standard
 - a. It's same in the Church, the body of Christ
2. Our togetherness & value should extent to **EVERY** member of the Church

Read Vs 26-27

1. Whatever happens to one affects the whole
2. Hard Circumstance – If you smash your thumb, your whole body reacts to it
3. Enjoyable Circumstance – If you eat a great piece of chocolate, your whole body reacts to it
4. We're in this fight for the souls of people together!

3rd aspect is that we can't do everything, but we should press into something (Vs 28-31)

Read Vs 28-30

1. There is a pre-eminence to the offices & gifts – chief among them is the Apostles
2. Roles
 - a. Apostles – 1st generation 12 ambassadors
 - i. Foundation of the Church (Eph 2:20, Rev 21:14)
 - ii. Authority to write scripture (II Pet 3:15-16)
 - iii. The 12 were proven w/ special signs (II Cor 12:12)
 - b. Prophets – Speaking forth for God
 - c. Teachers – Simply explain the Word simply
 - d. Miracles – Defying the Laws of Nature
 - e. Gift of Healings – Physical bodily healing
 - f. Helps – 2nd fiddles, support staff
 - g. Govts – To pilot, steer or govern, admin
 - h. Tongues – Oneness w/ God by other languages

3. It's impossible to say that it is necessary for every believer to exercise an item from this list
 - a. It's last on the list of pre-eminence
 - b. These rhetorical questions are all answered with a 'No'.

Read Vs 31

1. We can't fulfill all roles ourself, but it's good to seek God to enable you with good gifts
2. Read Luke 11:13 - If you ask, God will give

Conclusion

So Jesus Christ has brought unity AND Diversity to His body, the Church

- 1. Our source of diverse gifting is ONE Lord**
 - a. There's a singular purpose to all the gifts
b/c they come from a single God to fulfill His singular plan of offering redemption to all
- 2. Our example of unity is a diverse physical body**
 - a. Value each other like our own body parts
 - b. Have unity w/ each other like our own body parts
 - c. Accept our role like our own body parts
- 3. We can't do everything, but we should press into something**
 - a. Have you asked the Lord?
 - b. Read the book, "They Found The Secret"
 - c. Does God have more for you?
 - d. Seek God at individual occasions for power