

Lesson 14

1 Cor. 8-14: The Word of the Cross is the Basis for the Church's *Freedom* (8-10) & Its *Worship* (11-14)

In Chapter 11, Paul begins to address three items of abuse in their own worship services:

- Chapter 8: Do not be involved in pagan worship by **eating idol meat**, for the good of the **weaker brother**.
 - Chapter 9: Follow my example of setting aside my **freedom/rights** to win others **for the gospel**.
 - Chapter 10: Be careful to not toy with **idolatry**, as Israel did and fell. Do everything for **the glory of God**.
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- Chapter 11: A concern of **women's head coverings** in the context of public worship (11:2-16), & the abuse of the poor when celebrating **the Lord's Supper** (11:17-34)
 - Chapter 12-14: The abuse of speaking in tongues in public worship services

Verses 1-11

- 1) What is a spiritual gift?
- 2) Read verses 1-3. What point made in these verses might we use to counter the emphasis of churches like Pentecostalism/Revivalism/AoG who champion the outward gifts of the Spirit?
*Acknowledges the reality of Speaking in tongues...physical healing...
But...(therefore)! There's a purpose behind the use of such gifts*
- 3) Read verses 4-6. What two truths does Paul highlight by using the refrain, "*different kinds...but the same...*"?

The list in verses 7-10 is not comprehensive but a survey.

- 4) Dig into verses 7-11. What truth(s) must one keep in mind when
 - a. identifying their spiritual gifts?
 - b. making use of their spiritual gifts?

Verses 12-31

- 5) Read verses 12-26. List at least 4 points that Paul is making by comparing the church to a body.

Paul's line of thought: *in extended metaphor*

v. 12-14

You are connected to Christ – *intimately, permanently, unmistakably through baptism*. Therefore, you are concerned with one another.

Lesson 14

"But what good am I to other people?"

v. 15-20

There is no such thing as a useless part of God's church

"But why does God give different parts/roles?"

v. 21-26

God's concern for his church is UNITY

6) Discuss the following points, giving special attention to the italicized portion:

- I'm an *important* part of the body.
- I'm an important *part* of the body.
- I'm an important part of *the body*.

Apply It

7) A/D: Spiritual gifts are still distributed to members of God's church today.

"The Bible's teaching about spiritual gifts fits in squarely with the Bible's teaching about the priesthood of all believers. Every Christian, not just the pastor, has a "ministry" to perform. Every Christian, not just the pastor, is equipped by God for his or her "ministry" through the gifts of the Spirit. Every part of the Body has a vital function to perform. "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us" (Rom. 12:6). May each of us faithfully use our gifts "so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph. 4:12) "that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 4:11). David Valleskey, *Gifted to Serve*

8) How do I rightfully determine what my spiritual gifts are?

A catalog, not a comprehensive list, of spiritual gifts (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4)

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|---|--|
| • Serving (working in supportive roles) | • Knowledge |
| • Teaching (explaining truths of God's Word in an understandable way) | • Wisdom (ability to understand and apply God's truth) |
| • Encouraging | • Faith (full confidence in God's ability to work great things) |
| • Contributing (sharing what you have with extra generosity) | • Administration (organizing, delegating, motivating to get things done) |
| • Leading | • Evangelism |
| • Showing mercy | |

9) How does an eager use of my spiritual gifts help our congregation and synod?

"What may polarize the world does not or should not divide the church. The segmentation of the Corinthians congregation into cliques is the by-product of human depravity. It spurs individuals to treat their different spiritual experiences as a pretext for reinstating class divisions — now employing spiritual classifications — so as to elevate themselves over others." David Garland, *Exegetical Commentary on 1 Corinthians*