

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Small Group Guide: The Body of Christ and Spiritual Gifts

Key Takeaways:

1. The body of Christ is made up of many members, each with unique functions and gifts.
2. All spiritual gifts are valuable and necessary for the church to function properly.
3. God distributes gifts according to His will, not our preferences.
4. Unity in the body of Christ is essential, despite our diversity of gifts.
5. We should desire spiritual gifts, but love is the most excellent way to use them.

Discussion Questions:

1. What struck you most about the sermon's comparison of the church to a physical body?
2. Have you ever felt like you didn't fit in or weren't as important in a church setting? How does this message challenge that perspective?
3. The pastor mentioned that some people compete for more visible roles. Why do you think this happens, and how can we combat this tendency?
4. How can we better recognize and appreciate the "less visible" gifts in our church community?
5. What is your understanding of your own spiritual gift(s)? How are you currently using it/them to serve the body of Christ?
6. The sermon touched on the dangers of misusing or overemphasizing certain gifts (like speaking in tongues). How can we maintain a balanced approach to spiritual gifts in our church?
7. How does the concept of "God composed the body" impact your view of your place in the church?
8. What does it mean practically to "earnestly desire the best gifts" while also recognizing that God distributes gifts as He wills?

Practical Applications:

1. Take time this week to identify and affirm someone in your church who has a "less visible" gift that contributes to the body.
2. Reflect on your own spiritual gifts. If you're unsure, consider talking with a church leader.
3. Look for an opportunity to serve in the church in a way that might be outside your comfort zone or usual area of service.
4. Practice expressing gratitude for the diversity of gifts in your church community during your prayer time this week.
5. If you've been frustrated about not having a particular gift, spend time in prayer surrendering that desire to God and asking Him to help you embrace the gifts He has given you.
6. Consider how you can use your gift(s) this week to build up another believer or serve the church in some tangible way.

7. Read 1 Corinthians 13 (the "love chapter") in preparation for next week, reflecting on how love should guide the use of all spiritual gifts.