

*Entrusted*  
1 Corinthians 12.1-13  
March 19, 2023

Welcome back to our series, *Entrusted!* Reed Jolley led us in an excellent three-week study about the happiness of God, but we're returning to our previous series until Easter. We're digging into a key issue this week, so slow down, reflect, and answer the questions that you have time to dig into.

Pastor Eric

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*Sharing:* What was the best gift you ever received?

What is Paul's concern as we turn to 1 Corinthians 12? What do you think is the issue at hand in verse 3? Apparently, the gifts of the Spirit had gotten a bit out of control in Corinth. What is Paul's suggestion to counterbalance this? Read 1 Corinthians 12.1-13.

What are the two other synonyms Paul uses for gifts in verses 4-6? How does that help you understand what spiritual gifts are?

“Spiritual gifts are expressions of God’s love for us, energized by him, and intended for the church.”

Skim through 1 Corinthians 12 to identify some of the spiritual gifts. Although Paul never seems to give an exhaustive list of the gifts, you may want to note some others mentioned in Romans 12.3-8, and Peter's list in 1 Peter 4.10-11. Why do you think the Corinthian Christians were so obsessed with the gift of tongues?

1 Corinthians 12.7 is key to the point Paul is trying to make. First, Paul is referring to these gifts as “manifestations of the Spirit” (see also verse 11). What does that phrase say to you about these gifts? How do you think they manifest the Spirit?

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”  
1 Corinthians 12.7

What is the purpose of the gifts? “For the common good” means for the benefit of everyone, so these gifts are not designed for self-service but the service of the whole church.

On this, note Ephesians 4.11-13. Summarize what Paul indicates in verses 12 and 13 is attained as people do their work properly? In verse 15, he states that when our gifts are active, “we grow up in every way into him who is the head [Jesus].” How might the exercise of our gifts be key to that?

Back in 1 Corinthians 12.7, Paul specifies who receives this manifestation of the Spirit. Is anyone excluded? So what happens when some don't do their part? Read 1 Corinthians 12.15. What is Paul getting at by his analogy?

If the Holy Spirit “apportions” these gifts (verse 11), it's up to us to detect what our own gift is. What are you good at and what do you enjoy doing? What gift-energy-ability do you bring to the church? Ask your group what they think is your spiritual gift.