



Connect Discussion Guide

01.09.22 Message | Tyler Myers | 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13

Key Scriptures:

"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

- John 17:22-23

"O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

- John 17:25-26

"All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills."

- 1 Corinthians 12:11

"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body."

- 1 Corinthians 12:14-20

"But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way."

- 1 Corinthians 12:31

Message Highlights:

- Jesus' dream for the church is for it to be the flesh that reveals the oneness that exists between God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Paul encourages the church in Corinth to find and exercise their spiritual gifts in healthy partnership with the local church.
- Jesus' prayer in John 17 emphasizes that being One is a powerful force that changes the trajectory of the spiritual landscape of a body, community and even the world.
- Let's lean into Jesus' dream for the church by living in bold oneness that the world may experience a more "excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31).

Conversation Starter:

Think of a friend whose personality and/or giftings are opposite yours. How have your personalities complimented each other throughout the years? Where have there been tensions? Discuss with your group some of the fruit you've seen come from this relationship.

Discuss the Message:

1. Paul encourages the church to find and exercise their spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:11-27. How do we find our spiritual gifts? Have you discovered yours, and if so, how have you been able to exercise those gifts both within and outside of the church?
2. Why is 1 Corinthians 12:11 so crucial in the conversation of spiritual gifts? How would your understanding of verses 12-27 change if verse 11 did not precede it? Spend some time praising God that he is the source of our gifts.
3. The very picture of the body of Christ confirms that Christ does *not* in fact want us to have and exercise the same strengths and spiritual gifts as one another; we are a unit that works together. How has comparison become a barrier for exercising your spiritual gifts well – either in your life or the life of someone you know?
4. What truths can you glean from 1 Corinthians 12:21? In a culture that can be quick to 'cancel' or dismiss someone who is different from us, how does this verse encourage and/or challenge you? How can we have boundaries and accountability with those who are different from us while working together towards the goal rather than letting our differences divide us?
5. Paul provides perspective on what fades away and what lasts for eternity in 1 Corinthians 12:31. Read this verse again; what is Paul urging us to do here? What role does submission play in our quest to earnestly desire the "higher gifts?"

Pray:

Father in Heaven, thank you for calling us into oneness with you and oneness with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. What an amazing gift you have given us in Jesus, that we might experience the same oneness with him and with others that you hold in your very being as Father, Son and Holy Spirit! We recognize that we so often take that gift for granted. Forgive us, and grant us the grace we need to recognize just how important every member of your body is. Help us, by your Spirit, to honor and appreciate the variety of spiritual gifts you have given us so that we might move as one as we minister to the hurting world around us. Amen.