

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

I Corinthians 12.1-30

Spiritual Gifts are

- Given by the grace of God: “Gifts” (Charisma, 12.4)
- Spiritual gifts: related properly to God, 12.1
- For the benefit of the body of Christ, 12.7

The gifts are diverse

- 12.4-11
- 12: 4 diversities
- 12:5 differences
- 12:6 diversities
- It is the same Greek word, referring to distinctions

- 12.8-11 list some of those gifts: The word of wisdom, The word of knowledge, Faith, Healing, Working of miracles, Prophecy, Discerning spirits, Tongues and their interpretation

But there is only 1 body

- 12.12-14
- In 12.7-11, the “one” references are to individuals—all the references are singular in nature
- In 12.12-14, the body is singular
- The Body is Christ’s, 12.12
- Ephesians 1.22-23; 4.15-16

What does 12.13 mean?

- Is the Spirit the One who is doing the baptizing? The Baptizer?
- Or is the Spirit the One into whom we are baptized? The Element?
- John 1.26; 33: Just as John baptized in water
- Acts 2.33: Jesus is the Baptizer

- I Cor. 12.13 there is only one Body, made up of radically different members
- Jews and Gentiles
- Slaves and free
- But we are all nourished by the same Spirit

There is 1 body, with many members, and every member is necessary

- 12.15-25
- Paul argues through the personification of body parts: 12.15-21
- The foot cannot declare itself “not body” because it is not the hand, 15
- Neither can the ear, 16

- The body would be impeded if it was only 1 part, 17
- And so God has put many members, 18
- If there aren't many members, it isn't a body at all, 19
- And so, one body with many members, 20

- And body parts can't dismiss other body parts, 21
- Because all parts are necessary, 22—they are indispensable