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Principles in 1 Corinthians 12

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The Gifts of the Spirit

A study of the texts and biblical
descriptions of the gifts of the
Spirit

Principles from 1 Cor 12:22-23

12:23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,

The less visible gifted service should frequently be recognized; in the physical body they are dressed the most!

12:24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

The most visible or naturally

Word is used of a painter mixing colors to come to the right combination for the best effect

many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." Mat 19:30

Principles from 1 Co 12:24-25

12:25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

Pride, self-glorying, selfishness and self-importance cause divisions and clicks

The design of the gifts is to create an interdependent corporal unity recognizing the need and contribution of each gift and mutual commitment to meet the needs of each other

Principles from 1 Co 12:26-27

12:26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

The body “shares, or participates” (meaning of *fellowship*) with each member equally

12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

The unity of the body is measured by the commitment to meet the needs of each other as a priority in each life – especially the needs which our gifts empower and motivate us to meet

Every member is a small part of the whole body; but everyone’s participation is necessary for the whole

Principles from 1 Cor 12:28

12:28 And in the church God has appointed **first** of all apostles, **second** prophets, **third** teachers, **then** workers of miracles, **also** those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

Gifts are for a church or body function

Gifts are given **FIVE** priority categories for importance; some were making lesser gifts too important

Apostles were uniquely

Teachers were to clarify and
Helps "to lay hold of" thus is a

Administration comes from the word to *govern, organize or*

Note the emphasis on "different kinds of tongues"; literal families of languages (*genos*); not one kind

Principles from 1 Cor 12:29-31

12:29 Are all apostles?
Are all prophets? Are
all teachers? Do all
work miracles?

12:30 Do all have gifts of
healing? Do all speak
in tongues? Do all
interpret?

12:31 But eagerly desire
the greater gifts. And
now I will show you the
most excellent way.

Summary argument:
Redundant questions all
requiring the answer “No”
leading to the real
problem of the over
emphasis on tongues-
speaking in Corinth

zeloo, pres.imp.pl., “be

Paul had just categorized the
gifts in 5 levels. Revelational
gifts and teaching were to be
given priority, not the 5th
category gift of tongues

In v. 28 – not the lesser gifts

How to Speak in a “Tongue”

“To speak in tongues in an infantile act of faith... in the same manner that a child begins to babble their first words, open your mouth and make sounds, any sounds... Whatever sound that we make, offering a tongue to God in simple faith, can be the beginning of speaking in tongues.... If we do not accept this experience as real (the sounds of babbling) we are not conscience of His reality; that is, whatever sound should be accepted by faith as the gift of tongues.”

(Dennis Bennett, *The Spirit and You*)

The Purposes of the Gifts

1. Equipping or training of believers (Eph 4:12, “prepare God's people for works of service”)
2. Edification of the church (Eph 4:16, “**according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.**”)
3. Confirmation of the believers (Rom 1:11, “that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;”)
4. Encouragement of believers (Rom 1:12, “that I may be encouraged together with you *while* among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.”)

More Purposes of Gifts

5. Effectiveness of all the church (1 Co 12:7, “A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.”)
6. Growing of the church (Ef. 4:16, “according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body ...”)
7. Exalting Jesus Christ (1 Pe 4:11, “If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ...”)

Nature of the Gifts

- Are not natural talents
- Are not the “fruit of the Spirit”
- Are not signs of maturity, nor spirituality
- Are not given in response to prayer nor request
- Are the “manifestation” of the Spirit (1 Co 12:7)
- Are distributed by the Spirit as He wishes
- All believers have at least ONE gift
- Are the result of the grace of God: not merited nor earned

The Fruit of the Spirit is distinct from the Gifts of the Spirit

- “Fruit” is always singular = all are present simultaneously
- Effects the attitudes
- Impossible if carnal
- Are temporal, not permanent
- Effects primarily the possessor
- All can possess all the fruit of the Spirit
- The result of being controlled by the Spirit
- “Gifts” is plural = are multiple and individual
- Effects the actions and motivations
- Possible if carnal
- Are permanent, not temporal
- Effects others
- Cannot possess all the gifts, nor is one gift common to all
- Is the result of the indwelling of the Spirit

Wrong Attitudes

- Once I discover my gift I am ready to be used powerfully
- To use my spiritual gift means I am spiritual
- When I discover my gift, I am no longer responsible to minister in areas of other gifts
- God gave me a special gift for my benefit and personal growth in the Lord
- The gifts can not be used without the power and filling of the Spirit.
- The emphasis on the spiritual gifts causes divisions and pride in the church. It is better to avoid them.