

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12:1-13

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT? - PART 1

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Development, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth**

#### 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Now concerning **spiritual gifts**, brethren, I do not want you to be **ignorant**: :2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. :3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the **Spirit of God** calls **Jesus accursed**, and no one can say that **Jesus is Lord** except by the **Holy Spirit**. :4 There are **diversities of gifts**, but the same **Spirit**. :5 There are **differences of ministries**, but the same **Lord**. :6 And there are **diversities of activities**, but it is the same **God** Who works all in all. :7 But the **manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all**: :8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the **Spirit**, to another the word of knowledge through the same **Spirit**, :9 to another faith by the same **Spirit**, to another gifts of healings by the same **Spirit**, :10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. :11 But one and the same **Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills**. :12 For as the **body is one** and has **many members**, but all the members of that one body, being **many, are one** body, so also is **Christ**. :13 For by one **Spirit** we were all **baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to **drink into one Spirit**.

**This Chapter 12 begins a whole new section for us  
and here – 1<sup>st</sup> Californians.**

**The Entire Theme of This Book for the Christian is Found In...**

#### 1 Corinthians 1:9

God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Does The Church Have All That Is Needed for The 21<sup>st</sup> Century?  
The answer is an overwhelming “Yes” if we believe the Bible.**

# Do we have all that we need to finish this faith of ours? Again, it is a resounding “Yes”

**Because it's the Holy Spirit's job to get the job done.**

## **Zechariah 4:6**

...‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.

## **Ephesians 4:11-13**

And **He** (The Holy Spirit) Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, :12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, :13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

**This is a remarkable portion of scripture / doctrine**  
that's before us today for many reasons – one of those reasons appears as a grand  
assumption that everybody knew this then and we know it today –

**The doctrine of the trinity or the tri-unity of God.**

**Notice with me that in just 13 verses that:**

“**God**” is referred to **2** times in **verses 3 & 6** // “**Jesus**” is referred to **2** times in **verses 3 & 12**. // The title “**Lord**” is referred to **2** times in **verses 3 & 4**. // But the “**Holy Spirit**” is referred to **10** times in **verses 3,4,7,8,9,11**,

We Shouldn't Be Surprised at This - The  
Triune God has Made Himself Available. // God the Father is our Provider. // God the  
Son Jesus is our Redeemer. // And God the Holy Spirit our Developer.

**In the Next Three Weeks we're going to be looking at three key factors that  
make a church a real Biblical church – a relevant church.**

## **“WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?”**

It's not the stage lighting or the in-house Starbucks. It's not how close it can look like the world and still call itself a church. It's not even how cool a service can be – that's not relevance in Gods eyes. What is relevant to God is the hurt and broken are repaired and that the lost and godless are found.

**“WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?”**

**“WHO MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?”**

**“WHEN IS A CHURCH RELEVANT?”**

**Luke 4:16-19**

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. :17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: :18 *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me **To preach** the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me **to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty** to the captives And **recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty** those who are oppressed; :19 **To proclaim** the acceptable year of the LORD.”*

So Lets Begin Our “Lab” Session as we look into...

**“WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?”**

*BECOMING A TRUE BELIEVER IN A LOST WORLD!*

**1.) The believers understand there’s a new life**

**v.1-2**

**THE BELIEVERS UNDERSTAND THERE’S A NEW LIFE**

**1a.) It’s a new life that’s come from heaven**

**v.1**

Now concerning **spiritual** (*spirituals – spiritualities – gifts*), brethren,  
I do not want you to be **ignorant**:

The Corinthians had become like “children with toys  
rather than adults with tools”.

They had been playing with the very God-given tools that were to be used  
to build up and make strong the other believers around them.

They were using the church as a place to “**showcase**”  
their God-Gifts

**Being Relevant Isn’t Being Like the World. Being Relevant  
Is Showing The World What They Really Need And Convincing Them of It.**

**Acts 1:6-8**

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” :7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. :8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

# THE BELIEVERS UNDERSTAND THERE'S A NEW LIFE

## 1b.) It's a new life of knowing the truth

v.2

You know that you were **Gentiles**, carried away to these **dumb idols**, however you were led.

**“Dumb” not as in stupid but dumb as in silent and impotent.** There is a loving sarcasm here by the Apostle. *“Those silent and impotent idols that you worshipped had to be carried to the temple by you, its worshipper.”*

## ALL RELIGIOUS IDOLATRY LEADS TO DECEPTION.

### Carried away

These first three verses of the chapter deal with the unmistakable mark of religious error, as opposed to the unmistakable mark of religious truth.

You Corinthians were once blinded by worldly idols and icons.

### Ephesians 2:1-3

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, :2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, :3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Did you ever get any direction from those earthbound idols and statues of gods and goddesses?

The Contrast Now is That You Are Being Led, Guided, Steered by God Himself.

### Isaiah 41:13

For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

# “WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?”

*BECOMING A TRUE BELIEVER IN A LOST WORLD!*

2.) The believers recognize there's a new cause

v.3

## THE BELIEVERS RECOGNIZE THERE'S A NEW CAUSE

2a.) Our new cause is to reject the false

v.3

Therefore I make known to you that  
no one **speaking** by the **Spirit of God** calls **Jesus** accursed...

### Jesus is Lord

Not “He’s going to be Lord. He’s coming as Lord –  
He is Lord Now and forever

“**Jesus is Lord**” means He’s in Charge of every moment, everywhere.  
We need to live like we believe it when we say, “**Jesus is Lord**”

We have to ask these days “Which Jesus are  
you talking about?”

There are all kinds of Jesus’ that have been made up by the cults of this world.  
When we talk about the Gospel, we have to ask about “which one do you mean?”

### **2 Corinthians 11:3-4**

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your  
minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. :4 For if he who comes  
preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different  
spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not  
accepted—you may well put up with it!

### **Do People Curse Jesus Today?**

You do not have to say these words to fulfill what Paul is saying here. Anyone, for  
instance, who says that Jesus Christ is nothing but a **mere man** is virtually saying,  
"Jesus is accursed," because according to the teaching of the Bible the whole race is  
cursed. The world says (Jesus was a **Great Man** = accursed. Jesus was a **Prophet**  
= accursed. Jesus was one of the great **Enlightened Ones** = accursed.)

# THE BELIEVERS RECOGNIZE THERE'S A NEW CAUSE

## 2b.) Our new cause is to exalt the true

v.3

And no one can say that Jesus is Lord Except by the Holy Spirit.

In All Sincerity by Confession / with Profession / in Reality

### Romans 10:8-10

But what does it say? *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"* (that is, the word of faith which we preach): :9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### John 16:12-14

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. :13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. :14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

When You Say "Jesus" or "Jesus Christ" or  
"Jesus is Lord"  
What do you mean by that?

## "WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?"

*BECOMING A TRUE BELIEVER IN A LOST WORLD!*

## 3.) The believers know there's a new direction

v.4-6

### 3a.) In the direction of unity

v.4

:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

Grk: Gifts (same Spirit.) *ca̅risma* charisma, *khar'-is-mah*; from 5483; an endowment, a specific qualification. **By The Holy Spirit**

**When we're born into this world, we're not** expected to stay as we have come. Growth is expected, assumed and measured.

**If growth doesn't happen – all are concerned.**

The gifts are not “talents” or “skills”. They are not “natural” endowments or learned “disciplines”

**They Are Un-natural Bestowals upon a person.**

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

And **He** (The Holy Spirit) Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **:12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **:13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

But the **manifestation** of the **Spirit** is **given to each one** for the **profit of all**: **:8** for **to one is given the word of wisdom** through the **Spirit**, **to another the word of knowledge** through the same **Spirit**, **:9** **to another faith** by the same **Spirit**, **to another gifts of healings** by the same **Spirit**, **:10** **to another the working of miracles**, **to another prophecy**, **to another discerning of spirits**, **to another different kinds of tongues**, **to another the interpretation of tongues**. **:11** But one and the same **Spirit works all these things**, **distributing to each one individually as He wills**.

Please begin to ask yourself this question from now on.  
“What is my spiritual gift or gifts that God has for me?”

**THE BELIEVERS KNOW THERE'S A NEW DIRECTION**

**3b.) In the direction of function**

**v.5**

**:5** There are **differences** of **ministries**, but **the same Lord**.

**Grk: Ministries (same Lord) diakoni÷a diakonia, dee-ak-on-ee'-ah;** from 1249; attendance (as a **servant**, etc.); figuratively (eleemosynary) aid, (official) service (especially of the Christian teacher, or technically of the diaconate): — (ad-)minister(-ing, -tration, -try), office, **relief, service-ing. By The Lord Jesus**

### Romans 12:4-8

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, :5 so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. :6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if **prophecy**, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; :7 or **ministry**, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who **teaches**, in teaching; :8 he who **exhorts**, in exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

## THE BELIEVERS KNOW THERE'S A NEW DIRECTION

### 3c.) In the direction of maturity

v.6

:6 And there are **diversities** of **activities**,  
but it is **the same God** Who works all in all.

**Grk: Activities (same God)** *ejne÷rghma energema, en-erg'-ay-mah*; from 1754;  
**Effects**, operation, working, actions. **Results. By God Himself**

### So Why Should We Care About This?

(1) Because the discovery of your gift(s) will result in personal confidence. (2) It will cause you to want to get out of your comfort zone. (3) Your Bible knowledge will begin to take off. (4) Others will need what you have. (5) The church will not be held back by you. (6) This is the glorious death to yourself. (7) Your growth will encourage others to grow as well. (8) Your faith will develop stronger. (9) You will be taken places never thought of. (10) You will be a true disciple of Jesus Christ....

### Philippians 2:13

for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Please begin to ask yourself this question from now on.  
"What is my spiritual gift or gifts that God has for me?"

*End of Study*

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