

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12:1-13

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX751 SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT? – PART 2

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Development, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth

Introduction to the Text: 1st Corinthians 12:1-6

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 12th Chapter of 1st Californians takes us on into the Practical Functions of Being a Church and Doing a Church.

Historically – The Church has Been the Greatest Power on the Face of the Earth.

**There's a great temptation these days to "do church"
Using human ingenuity and manly powers.**

Be careful to not fall for End Time Deceivers
(look for the total package of what a church should be)

The Bible Says - Matthew 24:4-5

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. :5 For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many.

Every one of us must be faithful to "pass biblical judgment" on what is being presented in the name of Jesus Christ and what is called "church".

Just because it's called a church

Doesn't make it a church unless there's clear evidence that Jesus Christ is at the helm and The Holy Spirit is at Work.

The Bible Says – 2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this: There will be perilous times in the last days. :2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, :3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, :4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - :5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

**The Evidence of God's Stamp Upon a Church Will Be:
Love, Truth, Unity, Power, And The Presence of Those Things Will Result in
Personal Transformation Among Those Gathered Together.**

The Bible Says - Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Has God Given Us All That We Need to Be A Church
in The 21st Century ? The answer is an overwhelming
"Yes" *if* we believe God at His word.

The Bible Says - Acts 1:4-8

And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait** for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; :5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit **not many days from now.**” :6 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.”

“WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?”

BECOMING A TRUE BELIEVER IN A LOST WORLD!

1.) As Christians we understand there’s a new life

v.1-2

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**:

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.*

“WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?”

BECOMING A TRUE BELIEVER IN A LOST WORLD!

2.) As Christians we recognize there’s a new cause

v.3

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,

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.

“WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?”

BECOMING A TRUE BELIEVER IN A LOST WORLD!

3.) As Christians we know there's a new direction

v.4-6

WE KNOW THERE'S A NEW DIRECTION

3a.) In the direction of unity

v.4

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

The “Ministry-Life” of the Church, in The Post-Resurrection World is to be marked by Unity.



Grk: diversities $\text{diai}\div\text{resi}\beta$ **diairesis**, *dee-ah'-ee-res-is*; from 1244; a unified distinction, an assembled variety, difference, diversities.



Grk: Gifts (same Spirit.) $\text{ca}\zeta\text{risma}$ **charisma**, *khar'-is-mah*; from 5483; an endowment, an appointed qualification. **By The Holy Spirit**

The Bible Says – Ephesians 4:7-8

But to each one of us **grace has been given** according to the measure of Christ's gift.
:8 Therefore He says: *“When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”* (quoting Psalm 68:18)

Ephesians 4:12-13

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;

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

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

They Are Un-natural Bestowals upon a person.

**One of the Undeniable Proofs that Jesus is the Christ
Is that His ministry includes the Office of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church
through You and me**

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

Where God is @ Work, There Will be Unity Around The Truth.

Jesus Warned Against The Sign of Division.

The Bible Says - Mark 3:24-25

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. :25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

**The Evidence of a “Christ-Centered-Unity” will be Present.
the proper use of the gifts will unite the true believers**
and make for a powerful, spiritually healthy church that in turn will naturally –
supernaturally grow in size and depth.

Let Me Say Here and Now:

I believe in all of the gifts displayed in the scriptures – every one of them. Just because there are abuses and or imitations, it does not mean that the Holy Spirit has ceased in giving these gifts. I believe the problem is with the modern- day church. The Lord will never bless carnal living, divisions, and worldliness. He desires to do great things but we are the ones who keep ourselves out of the game.

The Bible Says - Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. :30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed** for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit – Is The Manager of the House of God

And He’s looking for Devotion, Singleness of Heart, Loyalty, Faithfulness, A true Love for Christ. If these things are not in your heart and are missing in the hearts of others, then those Christians and that church will be a spiritually sick church because of the grief they have caused God the Holy Spirit.

“The Illustration of the Long Distance Engagement”

We all need you to ask ourselves this question from now on.
“What is my spiritual gift or gifts that God has for me?”

The Bible Says – 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Therefore I remind you to **stir up the gift of God which is in you** through the laying on of my hands.
:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

WE 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 diakoni÷a diakonia, dee-ak-on-ee´-ah; from 1249; tending or attending. Caring. Servicing. Attending to. To give relief. **By The Same Lord Jesus**

The Bible Says - 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.

Jesus Christ had an earthly occupation as a Carpenter. Seeing that He built the universe(s), its safe to assume He loves to build things. Creating the milky-way had to be awesome. Setting the tides of the sea – amazing. But by far His crowning work appears to be mankind.

“We have been created in the image of God”

(no other thing can boast that – not even angels)

The Bible Says - Ephesians 2:10

For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God **prepared beforehand** that we should **walk in them**.



Workmanship grk: poi÷hma poiema, poy´-ay-mah; production, creation, invention.



good works grk: εἰργον **ergon**, *er'-gon*; to labor at. To toil over. To do as a project or effort to be accomplished.



prepared beforehand grk: προετοιμαζω **proetoimazo**, *pro-et-oy-mad'-zo*; to tailor or “fit up” ahead of time or to prepare before someone arrives.

The Bible Says - Galatians 1:15

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called *me* through His grace, **:16** to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

Moses, Joshua, Samson, Jeremiah, You

ONE POINT OF APPLICATION TODAY:

Prepare Yourself to Discover What Your Use (gifting) is in The Church.

WE 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) εἰνεργημα energema, *en-erg'-ay-mah*;
Effects, operation, working, actions. **Results By God Himself**

God is a United-Trinity in Person.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. God The Holy Spirit | Appoints the Gift(s) to the Believer. |
| 2. God the Son | Administers the use of the gift(s). |
| 3. God the Father | Activates the power of the gift(s). |

This “All in All” is a wonderful expression.

It speaks about all of us as Christians adding to one another’s spiritual development and growth toward becoming a mature man or woman for God, in a church.

It also implies that we are careful to not hinder someone or obstruct someone from becoming the person that the Lord has appointed them to be.

When we tear down or gossip or misrepresent someone

We are actually putting a stumbling block before them and others.

If someone says to someone else - that you are a **“thus and so”** and you are not a **“thus and so”** – then that person has just committed the grievous sin “discord”.

The Bible Says - Proverbs 6:16,19

Six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him...

:19 The one who sows **discord** among the brethren.



Heb: discord *mdan*, *med-awn*; any form of strife or quarrel or rift that places a wedge between brothers. (*you can forget being used by God with that cancer in your heart*). You will never see the power of God at work in your life if you're a divisive person. (You're running on human talent in front of an audience of people who are just like you)

Because It Disrupts Spiritual Maturity, Growth and Development.

So Why Should You Care About This?

- (1) Discovery of your gift(s) will result in personal edification.
- (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 delight in being a true disciple of Jesus Christ....

The Bible Says - Philippians 2:13

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

**Before We Can Go Any Further in This Series,
We need to begin right.**

Are you 100% certain that you're a Christian today?

End of Study

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