

The Church Gathered to Equip

1 Corinthians 12

INTRODUCTION:

I. Spiritual Gifts - Some Basic Principles (vv.1-11)

- A. The gifts are “spiritual” in nature (vv.1-3)
- B. The gifts are various (vv.4-6)
 - 1. Gifts
 - 2. Service
 - 3. Activities
- C. The giver of all gifts is the triune God
 - 1. Spirit
 - 2. Lord
 - 3. God
- D. The diversity of gifts associated with the Trinity, reveals that the use of varied gifts in the church better images the nature of God
- E. The gifts are given for the common good (vv. 7-11)
 - 1. To people, individuals, for the work of the body
 - 2. Given in sovereign administration

II. Spiritual Gifts Promote Unity (vv.12-31)

- A. Unity in the Spirit (vv.12-13)
 - 1. Baptism of the Spirit (for all at the point of conversion)
 - 2. A sovereign & gracious work

- B. Unity in the Body (vv.14-26)
 - 1. Arranged by God (vv.14-18)
 - 2. In Community (vv.21-26)
- C. Unity in the Pursuit of Love (vv.27-31)
 - 1. Personally responsibility for the pursuit
 - 2. Corporately accountable for the pursuit
 - 3. **Ephesians 1:1-16**
 - 4. **1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3**
 - 5. **John 13:34-35**

CONCLUSION:

- Membership matters: If the world will know that we are disciples by our love for one another, how can you love “one another” if you are not involved in a local church and committed to her?
- These are radically simple, selfless truths.
- If you are a member of UBC, are you utilizing your spiritual gift?
 - Physical talents are not spiritual gifts
 - Where do you derive joy in serving the church? Doing your “work” or building up the body?
- Perhaps you don’t know how to use your gift or even identify it
 - Pray
 - Serve
 - Ask
- Perhaps you don’t have a spiritual gift yet because you have not received the gracious gift of grace through Christ Jesus!