

1 CORINTHIANS

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1 Corinthians 12-14 – “Spiritually Mature”
May 19, 2021

SCHEDULE **April 14- June 2, 2021**

1. Background
2. Restoring Ruptured Relationships
(1 Cor 1-4)
3. Sex in the City (1 Cor 5-7)
4. Winning by Losing (1 Cor 8-10)
5. Did Paul Hate Women? (1 Cor 11,14)
- 6. Spiritually Mature? (1 Cor 12-14)**
7. Life After Death (1 Cor 15)
8. Generosity (1 Cor 16)

INTRODUCTION

“Church of God in Corinth” . . . All over the map!

- **Internal** Squabbles and lawsuits
- **External** troubles –
 - navigating the dominant popular culture
 - Especially relating to idolatry and sex
- **Discerning the will of God** in the light of
 - Hebrew Bible
 - Teaching of Jesus
 - The “shortness of time”
- **Understanding the body** – in a Greek world
 - Both the individual body
 - Male, female
 - (1st Adam & Eve; 2nd Adam & Eve?)
 - And the community “Body of Christ”
 - (last time – role of women in worship)
- **Understanding “spirituality”**

TODAY: “Community Body” & “Spirituality”

CHAPTER 12

¹ Now concerning **spiritual gifts/things/life**

(GK: *pneumatika* lit. “spiritual things” or “persons”)

brothers and sisters,

I do not want you to be uninformed.

I. THE SPIRIT & WHAT WE INDIVIDUALLY BELIEVE AND SAY

²You know that when you were pagans,
you were enticed and led astray
to idols that could not speak.

³Therefore I want you to understand that

i. **no one speaking by the Spirit of God**

ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!”

ii. **and no one can say “Jesus is Lord”**

except by the Holy Spirit.

Remember Jesus’ question” Who do you say that I am?” (Matt.16:16-17)

Peter’s response: “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”

Jesus’ response to Peter: “*flesh and blood has not revealed this to you **but**
my Father in heaven”*

II. THE SPIRIT IS MANIFEST IN A VARIETY OF WAYS

What is YOUR gift?

⁴Now there are VARIETIES of **gifts** (= *charismata*),
but the *same Spirit*;

⁵and there are VARIETIES of services (= *diakonia*)
but the *same Lord*;

⁶and there are VARIETIES of activities, (= *energe-mata*)
but it is the *same God* who is activating/energizing
all of them in everyone.

Don’t pin the Spirit down!!

Source of energy/power

Note the “trinitarian” reference

III. WHAT THE SPIRIT ENABLES BELIEVERS TO DO

A1. The Spirit FACILITATES UNIFIED COMMUNITY – diversity with a common purpose

⁷**To each**
is given
(by God the Spirit)
the manifestation of the Spirit
for the common good.

B1. The Spirit USES MULTIPLE (unlimited?) GIFTS – 1st list

See other lists . . . Gifts and fruit

Galatians 5:22-23

²²the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Romans 12:3-8

-- exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy, prophecy, service, teaching

- **Comment:** “do not think of yourself more highly than you ought. Not all members of a human body have the same function”

Ephesians 4:11-13

-- Apostle, evangelism, pastor, prophecy, teaching

- **Comment:** “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for **building up** the body of Christ”

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 & 11:28-30

⁸To one is given through the Spirit . . .

1. the utterance of wisdom, and
2. to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,
3. ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit,
4. to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
5. ¹⁰to another the working of miracles,

6. to another prophecy,
7. to another the discernment of spirits,
8. to another various kinds of tongues,
9. to another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹**All these** are activated/energized
by one and the same Spirit,
who allots to each one individually
just as the Spirit chooses.

You don't get to choose!
You cannot and must not compare yourself with others
but must focus on the “will of the source”/function
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE “miraculous?”

IV. THE SPIRIT'S PASSION FOR THE CHURCH CREATING THE CHURCH . . . AS A VISIBLE BODY

NOTE: The Word “body” appears x23 in this passage

¹²**For just as the body is one**
and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.

(NOTE: not “so it is with the church”)

¹³For in (by) the one Spirit

- we were all baptized into one body
 - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free (variety of peoples)
- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The Church/Body is not a “useful add on”
to the individual Christian life
but an essential part of God's Spirit's purpose

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member
but of many.

¹⁵If *the foot* would say, “Because I am not a *hand*,
I do not belong to the body,”
-- that would not make it any less a part of the body.

¹⁶And if the *ear* would say, “Because I am not an *eye*,
I do not belong to the body,”
-- that would not make it any less a part of the body.

¹⁷If the whole body were an *eye*,
where would the hearing be?

If the whole **body** were *hearing*,
 where would the sense of smell be?
¹⁸But as it is, God
(by the creator's design)
 arranged the members in the **body**,
 each one of them, as he chose.

¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the **body** be?
²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one **body**.
²¹The *eye* cannot say to the *hand*,
 "I have no need of you,"
 nor again the *head* to the *feet*,
 "I have no need of you."

²²**On the contrary,**
Focusing on the less mentionable parts
So that the Corinthians take care of their "weaker members"
 -- the members of the **body**
 that seem to *be weaker*
 are indispensable,
 -- ²³and those members of the **body**
 that we think *less honorable*
 we clothe with greater honor,
 and our *less respectable* members
 are treated with greater respect;
²⁴whereas our more respectable members
 do not need this.

But God (the creator) has so arranged the **body**,
 giving the greater honor to the inferior member,
²⁵**that there may be no dissension within the body,**
 but the members
 may have the same care for one another. . . .

- ²⁶If one member suffers,
 all suffer together with it;
- if one member is honored,
 all rejoice together with it.

This kind of practical love is THE work of the Spirit
²⁷Now you are the **body** of Christ
and individually members of it.

B2. USES MULTIPLE (unlimited?) GIFTS – 2nd list

²⁸And God has appointed in the church

first apostles,
 second prophets,
 third teachers;
 then deeds of power,
 then gifts of healing,
forms of assistance,
 forms of leadership,
 various kinds of tongues.

²⁹Are all apostles?
 Are all prophets?
 Are all teachers?
 Do all work miracles?
³⁰Do all possess gifts of
 healing?

Do all speak in tongues?
 Do all interpret?

³¹But strive for THE GREATER GIFTS

(see ch.14)

. . . and I will show you a still more excellent way

(see Galatians 5:22-23 . . . the fruit of the Spirit is *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self control*)

CHAPTER 13 . . .

V. THE SPIRIT AT WORK

THROUGH THE GIFT OF LOVE:

- **A POEM OF BEAUTY – BUT ALSO A POLEMICAL ARGUMENT**
- **about the – Ordinary Vs Extraordinary Gifts of The Spirit**

¹ IF I speak in **the tongues** of mortals and of angels,
 but do not have love,

- I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

²AND IF I have **prophetic powers**,
 and **understand** all *mysteries* and all *knowledge*,
 and if I have all *faith*, so as to remove mountains,
 but do not have love,

- I am nothing.

³IF I give away all my possessions,
 and if I hand over my **body** so that I may boast,

(even an act of self-sacrifice, like Jesus' death)

but do not have love,

- I gain nothing.

(down to earth, ordinary relational love . . .)

i.⁴Love is patient;

+ve

ii.love is kind;

a. love is not envious

-ve

b. nor boastful

c. nor arrogant

d. ⁵nor rude.

e. It does not insist on its own way;

f. it is not irritable or resentful;

g. ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

iii.but rejoices in the truth.

+ve

iv.⁷It bears all things,

v.believes all things,

vi.hopes all things,

vii.endures all things:

viii.love never ends.

VI. THE SEEMINGLY GREATEST GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT are INCOMPLETE OF – EXCEPT THREE

- But *as for prophecies*, they will come to an end;
- *as for tongues*, they will cease;
- *as for knowledge*, it will come to an end.

⁹For we *know* only in part,

and we *prophecy* only in part;

¹⁰**BUT WHEN** the complete comes,

the partial will come to an end. . . for example

¹¹**When** I was *a child*,

I spoke like a child, I thought like a child,

I reasoned like a child;

WHEN I became an adult,

I put an end to childish ways.

¹²**For NOW** we see in *a mirror*, dimly,

BUT THEN we will see face to face.

NOW I know only in part;

THEN I will know fully,

even as I have *been fully known*.

(“being known” is more important than “knowing”)

¹³And **NOW**

- faith
- hope
- and love abide, these three;

and the greatest of these is love.

CHAPTER 14

VII. THE PRIMACY OF MIND & COMPREHENSION OVER EMOTION -- PROPHECY vss. TONGUES

- Tongues? Other languages . . especially of angels . .
- Prophecy – fore-tell or forth-tell?

VIII. THE IMPORTANCE OF PURPOSE –

Maintaining Focusing on “**BUILDING UP**” the community (x7)

¹Pursue love . .

and

strive for the spiritual gifts/things/life (*pneumatica*)

and especially that you may prophecy.

²For those who speak in a tongue

do not speak to other people but to God;

for nobody understands them,

since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit.

³On the other hand, those who prophecy

speak to other people

for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

⁴Those who speak in a tongue **build up themselves**, (!!)

but those who prophecy **build up** the church.

⁵Now I would like all of you to speak in tongues,

but even more to prophecy.

One who prophesies is greater

than one who speaks in tongues,
-- unless someone interprets,
so that the church may be built up.

⁶Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking in tongues,
how will I benefit you unless I speak to you in some revelation or
knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

⁷It is the same way with lifeless instruments that produce sound,
such as the flute or the harp.

-- If they do not give distinct notes, **how will anyone know what is
being played?**

-- ⁸And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound,
who will get ready for battle?

⁹So with yourselves;

if in a tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible,
how will anyone know what is being said?

For you will be speaking into the air.

¹⁰There are doubtless many different kinds of sounds in the world, and
nothing is without sound.

¹¹If then I do not know the meaning of a sound,

- **I will be a foreigner (barbarian) to the speaker**
- **and the speaker a foreigner (barbarian) to me.**

¹²So with yourselves; since you are eager
for spiritual gifts/ things/life (*pneumatika*),
strive to excel in them
for building up the church.

¹³Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue
should pray for the power to interpret.

¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue,

- my spirit prays
- but **my mind** is unproductive.

¹⁵ What should I do then?

- *I will pray with the spirit,*
--but I will pray with **the mind** also;
- *I will sing praise with the spirit,*
-- but I will sing praise with **the mind** also.

¹⁶Otherwise, if you say a blessing with the spirit,
how can anyone

in the position of an outsider

say the “Amen” to your thanksgiving,

since **the outsider** does not know what you are saying?

¹⁷For you may give thanks well enough,
but **THE OTHER PERSON is not built up.**

¹⁸I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you;

¹⁹nevertheless, in church

*I would rather speak five words with my mind,
in order to instruct OTHERS also,
than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

²⁰Brothers and sisters,

do not be children in your **thinking**;
rather, be infants in evil,
but **in thinking be adults.**

²¹In the law [Isaiah ^{28:11} – the Assyrians speak, after they have defeated
disobedient Israel] it is written,

*“By people of strange tongues
and by the lips of foreigners
I will speak to this people;
yet even then they will not listen to me,”*
says the Lord.

²²Tongues, then, are a sign
not for believers but for unbelievers,
while prophecy is
not for unbelievers but for believers.

²³If, therefore, the whole church comes together
and all speak in tongues,

and **OUTSIDERS OR UNBELIEVERS** enter,
will they not say that you are **out of your mind?**

²⁴But **if all prophecy**, any unbeliever or outsider who enters
is reproved by all
and called to account by all.

²⁵After the secrets of the unbeliever's heart are disclosed,
**that person will bow down before God
and worship him,
declaring, "God is really among you."**

²⁶What should be done then, my friends?

IX. THE SPIRIT BRINGS GOOD ORDER IN THE CHURCH

When you come together, each one

- has a hymn,
- a lesson,
- a revelation,
- a tongue,
- or an interpretation.

Let all things be done for building up.

²⁷**If anyone speaks in a tongue,**
let there be only two or at most three,
and each in turn;
and let one interpret.

²⁸But if there is no one to interpret,
let them be silent in church
and speak to themselves and to God.

²⁹**Let two or three prophets speak,**
and let the others weigh what is said.

³⁰If a revelation is made to someone else sitting nearby,
let the first person be silent.

³¹For you can all prophesy one by one,
so **that all may learn and all be encouraged.**

³²And the spirits of prophets
are subject to the prophets,

³³for God is a God not of disorder but of peace.

As in all the churches of the saints,

³⁴**women** (wives) should "hush" in the churches.

For they are not permitted to whisper/mutter/
but should respect the nature of the assembly, the law also says.

³⁵If there is anything they **desire to know,**

let them ask their husbands at home.

For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

³⁶Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only ones it has reached?)

³⁷Anyone who claims to be a prophet,
or to be a "pneumatikos"

- **(should readily)** acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord.
- ³⁸Anyone who does not recognize this is not to be recognized.

³⁹So, my friends, be eager to prophesy,
and do not forbid speaking in tongues;

***⁴⁰but all things should be done
decently and in order.***