

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 Discussion Questions

1. We often read this passage focusing merely on what it teaches us about spiritual gifts, but it is really more about how we should think about the gifts of the Spirit in light of the way that the Spirit works in the church.
 - a. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from this passage?
 - b. What do you learn about the way that the Spirit works in and through the church?
2. As far as spiritual gifts, let's answer some basic questions:
 - a. What are the different spiritual gifts that Paul lists? Is this list exhaustive?
 - b. How do we receive them?
 - c. What is their purpose?
 - d. Do all Christians have spiritual gifts?
3. How does Paul use the body metaphor to help us understand the nature of our participation in the church?
4. Why would Paul stress our unity in Christ and our interconnectedness when talking about Spiritual gifts?
5. *How have you been tempted to think about or evaluate your own role in the church or giftedness in terms of what it does for you or how it makes you look, as opposed to how much it builds up the church?*
6. In vv. 12-16 Paul spends a lot of time emphasizing our unity in Christ and interdependence, and then in vv. 27-31 he introduces a hierarchy of gifts and says the seek the "higher" gifts. Do you see a tension here? Why or why not? If so, how do we resolve it?
7. If spiritual gifts are so important then why don't we talk about them more?
8. What if someone doesn't know what his or her spiritual gifts are? How does someone identify his or her gifts?
9. Can we develop our spiritual gifts? If so, how?
10. What is the difference between spiritual gifts and natural abilities?

11. Is it Okay to ask God for a spiritual gift you don't have?

12. What do you believe your spiritual gifts are? How have you seen God use them in your life and the lives of others?

13. What opportunities is God currently presenting to you to serve him where you might be able to discover a gift or use the gifts you know you have?