

SPIRITUAL GIFTS EDIFY THE CHURCH

You will often hear **Christians say** I use my spiritual gift for self-edification, for personal worship, for praise to God, or for prayer (1 John 5:14-15). They are not talking about spiritual gifts based on the word of God. However, they could be talking about personal worship, praise, or prayer. They are using incorrect biblical terminology. Paul called it agnoeo in (1 Cor.12:1).

This lesson will study this type of problem in the Corinthian church from our lesson text.

This lesson will study <u>five aspects</u> of how Spiritual Gifts Edify the church and NOT self.

1. We learn from 1 Cor.12:4-6 that all three members of the Godhead are very involved in the distribution, ministry, and performance every Spiritual gift.

Paul gave an important doctrinal principle regarding spiritual gifts being designed for edification of the church body in **1 Cor.12:7** – “For to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good** (to sumpheron) [profiting together] (1 Pet.4:10-11).”

“All the gifts are intended to build up the members of the Christian community (see 1 Pet.4:10-11). They are not to be used for selfish advantage, as some in the Corinthian community apparently were doing.” (NIV, 1 Cor.12:7)

This idea is carrying into our lesson text. “For the body is **not one** member (spiritual gift), **but many.**” (1 Cor.12:14)

“Now you are **Christ’s body**, and individually members of it.” (1 Cor.12:27)

2. This doctrinal principle was under attack within the Corinthian church.

Some of the different views Christians were saying about spiritual gifts were corrected by Paul in our lesson text. **Note the major doctrinal point Paul is making in our lesson text.**

The foot cannot say to hand (1 Cor.12:15) why?

The ear cannot say to eye (1 Cor.12:16) why?

The eye cannot say to hand (1 Cor.12:17-21) why?

(1 Cor.12-14) was written to correct false thinking and teaching on spiritual gifts and especially on the idea of self-edification.

“So that there may be **NO division** in the body, **but rather that** the members may have the same care for one another.” (1Cor.12:25)

3. All spiritual gifts were designed for the edification of the church body and not for personal edification.

Christian asks about 1 Cor.14:1-5 and 6-14. Paul's doctrinal point is that spiritual gifts are for the edification of the church body not self-edification.

- Paul asked this question, **“What is the outcome then?”** (1 Cor.14:15-25/ answer)
- The Paul asked it again, **“What is the outcome then?”** (1 Cor.14:26-33/ answer)

“Now I wish that you all spoke with tongues (evangelism/ (1 Cor.14:20-25), **but even more that** you would prophesy; and **greater** is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the **church may receive edification.**” (1 Cor.14:5; Acts 2:6, 11, 38-41)

“So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, **seek to abound for the edification of the church.**” (1 Cor.14:12)

4. Paul mentioned three reasons the local church should understand the importance of the ministry of spiritual gifts in 1 Cor.12:1, 25-26.

1st – “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.” (1 Cor.12:1)

2nd and 3rd - “So that there may be not division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. **And if one member** suffers, **all the members** suffer with it, **if one member** is honored, **all the members** rejoice with it.” (1 Cor.12:25-26)

5. In 1 Cor.13:1-13, Paul reminds us what spiritual gifts are like apart from God's love: “I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (1 Cor.13:1) and “I am nothing” (1 Cor.13:2) and “It profits me nothing” (13:3).

“Love **never fails.**” However, **some spiritual gifts will be done away** and **others will cease** during the church age (1 Cor.13:8-12).

Not only does God's love not fail but it is the greatest gift - “But now faith, hope, and love abide these three; but the **greatest is love.**” (1 Cor.13:13)

“But **God demonstrates His own love towards us**, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom.5:8) (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)