

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 12:14–31

August 8, 2021

DISCUSSION 1: REVIEW OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. What are some ways the church loses out when people are sitting on rather than using their gifts?
2. Why is it important to recognize spiritual gifts as being for the good of others and often done in the context of the local church or evangelism? Why is tempting to wrongly see spiritual gifts as primarily about or for myself?
3. Why is thinking about spiritual gifts important? How does it help us think about our role in the Church but also see how dependent we are on others in the Church?
4. Can you share examples of how you've discovered a spiritual gift or passion as you've served and been affirmed in it by others or seen fruit? Was it something you knew was a gift or something you discovered as you served?

DISCUSSION 2: UNITY AND DIVERSITY

1. What is that unites the Body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12? Why is that unity essential?
2. How does unity in diversity among the beauty exalt Christ more than uniformity?
3. What are some lessons believers might learn through this understanding of the diversity of the Body and our interdependence?
4. How do you practically apply this interdependence in the local church by seeing both that you are needed by others and you need others for the Church to be a healthy body?
5. It would be easy for this diversity of gifts in the Church to lead to division, but why should there be no division according to 1 Cor. 12?

DISCUSSION 3: GIFTS

1. Why should we view every "member of the body" and every gift as significant and valuable? How might this encourage us but also protect us from pride?
2. Are there things we should do to be careful not to esteem some people and gifts as "better" or downplay some people and gifts as less important?
3. What are ways you are using your gifts to be a healthy part or member in the Body of Christ?
4. What are ways you are benefitted from or growing from the service, ministry, or gifts of others in the Body of Christ?