

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 14:13–25

September 12, 2021

DISCUSSION 1: REVIEW OF GOD’S GIFTS (1 Cor. 14:1-12)

1. How does chapter 13 and the opening phrase of 14:1 help us again connect the priority of love with our pursuit of spiritual gifts? Why is this so important?
2. What are ways we might misuse our gifts, skills, and abilities rather than using them to serve others? How do we guard our hearts so that our gifts from God don’t become about us?

DISCUSSION 2: FULLY PRESENT

1. Read 14:14-15. Why is it problematic that someone in the church would be unfruitful in their mind (ESV) or not understand what they’re saying (MSG) during prayer or worship?
2. What does it mean for both our spirit and mind to be engaged in prayer, worship, and listening as believers gather?
3. Read 14:25. Why is worshipping God and experiencing his presence at the heart of our corporate gathering? What are ways we might be distracted from or things that keep us from experiencing this?
4. How does this section of 1 Corinthians help you think about ways to approach the church gathering correctly and so as to be fully engaged?

DISCUSSION 3: BUILDING UP

1. 1 Cor. 11-14 talks a lot about the importance of others being “built up” as we gather? What might this tell us about the importance of gathering with the purpose of not just receiving but of building up?
2. Read the following verses about building up or edifying the body. What are small ways we can do this on Sundays and throughout the week?
 - “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” Rom. 14:19
 - “Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.” Rom. 15:2
 - “So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.” 1 Thess. 5:11
 - “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Eph. 4:11-12, 15-16
 - “Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.” 1 Cor. 8:1
 - “Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction.” 2 Cor. 13:1

3. What is one way you can apply 1 Cor. 14:13-25 in the next couple of weeks?