

SERMON NOTES

EQUIPPING

THE WORK OF MINISTRY

Equipping: The Diversity of Spiritual Gifts | 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

The Foundation: Every believer has been given a spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit, not something earned, but a grace-gift meant to be used for the good of the body of Christ and the glory of Christ [1 Cor. 12:7].

This Week's Big Idea: God doesn't give the same gifts to everyone. He didn't make us spiritual clones. He made us a body, many members, different functions, one purpose.

There are 19 different gifts and offices mentioned in three main passages: 1Cor. 12, Rom. 12, Eph. 4. These lists are not exhaustive but rather representative.

Scripture is clear: **The Holy Spirit is active, the Word of God is authoritative, and no genuine work of the Spirit will ever contradict what God has already revealed in His Word.**

1. The Many Parts of One Body

A. The Danger of Inferiority – “I’m not needed” [vv. 14-16]

- Every part of the body has an important _____.
- No person should be _____ of another person's spiritual gifts. God placed you where it pleased Him.

B. The Danger of Uniformity – “Everyone should be like me” [vv. 17-20]

- Unity is not _____. Unity is different parts playing the same _____ under the same Conductor.

C. The Danger of Independence – “I don’t need you” [vv. 21-24]

- Each part of the body is _____ on other parts of the body to fulfill its purpose.
- Independence in the body is not _____; it's malfunction.

D. The Danger of Indifference – “Your pain isn’t my problem” [vv. 25-26]

- No matter what functions, gifts, or ministries other people have, we each honor and respect all others, and we empathize with one another. That is exactly the way a body functions.

They are not given to build individual reputations, to warrant superior positions in the local church, or to demonstrate spiritual advancement. They are not trophies, but tools—tools for touching and blessing others. - John Wimber (Pastor of Vineyard Christian)

■ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 28

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.