

March 28, 2021
I Corinthians 12:12-31 "A More Excellent Way"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Just as every part of the human body is important, so is every person who makes up the body of Christ in His church.

There are many spiritual gifts, 21 are listed in Scripture. Some of them are still active today, some came to an end at the completion of the Bible.

The metaphor of the human body in comparison to the church makes it clear to the reader that every born again believer in the church is important and is to be valued.

Do not despise the gift that the Lord has given you, use His gift to you for His glory. When a person refuses to use his or her spiritual gift for the common good of the church it is nothing less than disobedience.

The first two appointed groups, apostles and prophets had the job of (1) Laying the foundation of the church. (2) Receive and declare the revelation of God's Word. (3) To give confirmation of that Word through "signs and wonders and miracles." When the New Testament was completed, their offices ceased.

The gift of helps is beautiful, it means to take the burden off of someone and place it on one's self. This gift of helps is not glamorous or showy, often it is not even recognized or appreciated. But God prizes it greatly and so do leaders who know the value of such a person. When you think of this gift, who comes to mind?

APPLICATION:

Biblical writers often wrote in metaphors such as we have today. The body of believers that make up the church are just like the human body in many ways. Some parts of the human body seem to have more importance than others. For example, the mouth and the speech that may come forth from the mouth. But, the unseemly part of the body such as the pancreas is so vital to life, without it one cannot live! So, which is more important, the mouth speaking words of life and wisdom or the pancreas that is unseen, covered, and maybe indiscernible? Just like the human body needs all of its parts to function properly, so the body of Christ requires those who have all kinds of spiritual-God given-gifts to function properly.

It is okay to desire the greater gifts, but do not do as the Corinthians were doing, they were desiring the gifts of tongues for all the wrong reasons, namely, to be seen by men. In this desire notice the plurality of "gifts" to be desired. Along with this consider that in the first section of our passage today there were some who were not satisfied with the gifts God had given them for whatever reason(s). As we talked about last Sunday examine the Scriptures, identify the known 21 spiritual gifts listed, determine which ones have been done away with since the completion of the Scriptures. After this has been accomplished look at the remaining gifts that are active in the church today and determine which one(s) you may have. Recognize that every believer has at least one, they are distributed by God to believers who make up the church and they are to be used for the common good.