
“Making a Difference”
1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 11-27 ESV

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...

11All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills. 12For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15If the foot should say: Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body, that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16And if the ear should say: Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body, that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?

18But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose. 19If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 21The eye cannot say to the hand: I have no need of you, nor again the head to the feet: I have no need of you. 22On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

A healthy serving church recognizes that:

1. The source of each spiritual gift is God, the Spirit: (vv 4-6, 11, 18)
2. The purpose each has received a gift is serving the common good (the rest of the church family) (v 7; 14-17; 19-21; 25-27)
3. That honoring of ‘behind the scenes’ servants is God’s idea. (v 21-24)

Be aware of some red flags with Spiritual gifts:

1. The spiritual elite person
2. The self-absorbed person
3. The specialist person
4. The serving without love person

“If I speak in the tongues of men & of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing”

(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)