

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## 1 Corinthians 12

### Lesson 18

As we travel on the "Royal route to heaven", Paul uses chapters 12-14 to discuss our "equipment for the road". As we have each been given an individual lane to run, we have each been given a specific package of equipment, not only for our own lives, but for performing our part as a member of the body of Christ. May you be inspired to know your gift(s) and to use them to the fullest extent.

### DAYS ONE and TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 12

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 1 Corinthians 12 has been divided into three sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

**Verses 1-7**

**Verses 8-13**

**Verses 14-31**

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for chapter 12.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God, Jesus, Spirit*

New to this lesson: *gift, one, body, member(s)*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 12. Remember, as you mark the words, *God, Jesus* and *Spirit*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, add any information you feel is pertinent about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems**, and **Commands**.

4. Make a list of what the text reveals about *members*.

### DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

1. 1 Corinthians 12 deals with the importance of each member of the body (the church) and our interdependence on one another. Why is Paul writing to the Corinthian church about spiritual gifts? 1 Corinthians 12:1
2. The believers are now reminded in 1 Corinthians 12:2 that in their pagan past they had been controlled by and *carried* \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ ...
  - a. They were deluded and deceived. Refer to Ephesians 2:2 for a broader understanding of 1 Corinthians 12:2. Who controls the unbelievers' life?
  - b. Now the believers in Christ were led by the Holy Spirit. In verse 3, Paul gives the believers a simple guideline so that they can distinguish between the operation of demon spirits and the Spirit of God. Write that guideline here.
    - 1.) According to 1 John 4:1-3, what are we told to do? Why?

Challenge: Does 1 Corinthians 12:3 mean that no man can utter the words *Jesus is Lord*? Why or why not?

- c. A person controlled by the Holy Spirit cannot call *Jesus accursed*. Only a person under the influence of the Holy Spirit can properly proclaim what?
  - 1.) Reflect on *Jesus is Lord* and write what it means to you today.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 and complete the following chart:

verse	<i>There are</i>	<i>but</i>
4		
5		
6		

a. Summarize what these verses are saying.

b. What does Romans 12:4-6 say that confirms this?

4. *A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church* (1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT). Underline the phrase *each of us* and share what it means to you.

a. According to this verse, what is the purpose of *spiritual gifts*?

1.) How does the church (as individuals and as a whole) benefit from the exercising of *spiritual gifts*?

b. Write 1 Peter 4:10 in your own words.

c. How might misunderstanding the purpose of the gifts lead to the misuse of them?

**DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-13**

1. Each believer is given at least one spiritual gift to be used *for the profit of all*. Although the list provided in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 is not all inclusive, nine gifts are mentioned. What are they?

a. Add to the list of gifts using Romans 12:(3-5) 6-8.

Challenge: On a separate piece of paper, define each of the gifts recorded in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12.

2. The New International Version translates 1 Corinthians 12:11 as follows: *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.* The Amplified Version begins verse 11 this way: *All these...are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same Spirit...* Write in your own words what you learn about the *gifts* from this verse.
  - a. Write the last phrase of verse 11.
    - 1.) What do you know about God's *will*?
3. What example does Paul use in 1 Corinthians 12:12 to describe the church?
  - a. What do you learn from 1 Corinthians 12:12,13 and Galatians 3:26-28 about the *body*?  
See also Romans 12:4,5.
4. What are some of your thoughts when you think about being a *member* of the body of Christ?
  - a. What are some of the privileges of being a *member*?
  - b. What are some of the responsibilities of being a *member*?
5. Think about this: "No matter how we as Christians differ in race or status in this life, we are united as one body. We are not alike. Remember, it is *unity* not *uniformity*." Write your response to this.

## DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31

1. Paul uses the analogy of the human body (verses 14:17,21) to illustrate that each and every *member* of the body of Christ is interdependent on one another. Some believers err when they fail to recognize their importance to the body; others err when they think some parts of the body are unimportant. Whether or not you recognize your own spiritual gift, as a believer, you are necessary and valuable to the church. Support this statement by summarizing in your own words the truths presented in 1 Corinthians 12:14-24.
  
2. What comfort and contentment do you find in 1 Corinthians 12:18?
  
3. What attitudes might cause a Christian to view a weaker or unseen person as unnecessary and ignore someone they thought was *less honorable*?
  - a. Relate how these are corrected by 1 Corinthians 12:21-24.
    - 1.) What two reasons are given for our observing these instructions? 1 Corinthians 12:25,26.
  
    - 2.) An easy way to understand 1 Corinthians 12:26a is to think of how your entire human body suffers when you injure one part. The whole body is put under stress trying to compensate for the suffering part. 1 Corinthians 12:26 teaches us to really care for one another by entering into their sorrow or joy. Does 1 Corinthians 12:26 describe you when you hear about another member's suffering or success? Spend time this week meditating on the body of Christ and your relationships with other members in the body. Share a specific way 1 Corinthians 12:(14-24) 25b,26 nudges you to put these verses into practice.
  
4. In 1 Corinthians 12:27,28 the first three gifts refer to spiritually gifted individuals God has set in the church (see also Ephesians 4:11). They are themselves gifts the Lord bestows on the church. What do you think is the point of the questions Paul asks in 1 Corinthians 12:29,30?

5. 1 Corinthians 12:31a exhorts us to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Define the word *earnestly*.
  - The word *best* has been paraphrased elsewhere as *the most useful*. Think of this in light of profiting the whole church or body of Christ. Why is this so important?
6. The *more excellent way* of 1 Corinthians 12:31b is *love*. How could lack of *love* in the ministering of our gifts prevent their profiting the body?

### DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 12

- What are some common misperceptions of *spiritual gifts*?
- What are some questions you have had (or still have) about *spiritual gifts*?
- How can a person determine what their *spiritual gifts(s)* is (are)?
- Simply knowing your *spiritual gift* is not enough. We are to use our *spiritual gift(s)*. What is Paul's exhortation to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:6?
  - What do you think Paul meant by this?
- Share one thing that has impacted you as you studied this lesson?

*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,*  
-Ephesians 4:11-12

## Lesson 18 Scripture References

### DAY THREE

**Ephesians 2:2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

**1 John 4:1-3** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2**By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, **3**and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

**Romans 12:4-6** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5**so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **6**Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith;

**1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

### DAY FOUR

**Romans 12:3-5** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. **4**For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5**so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

**Romans 12:6-8** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; **7**or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; **8**he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Romans 12:1-21** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. **2**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **3**For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. **4**For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5**so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **6**Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; **7**or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; **8**he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **9***Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. **10***Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; **11**not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12**rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; **13**distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. **14**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. **15**Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. **16**Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your

mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>Therefore "*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*" <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Galatians 3:26-28** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

## **DAY FIVE**

**Ephesians 4:11** And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

## **DAY SIX**

**2 Timothy 1:6** Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

**Ephesians 4:11-12** And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,