

**Week 21 LEADER Discussion Questions**

**Text:** 1 Cor 12:1-11

**Icebreaker:** What's the best gift you've been given in the past couple years?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out to you from the text or from the sermon you heard Sunday?

2. Paul writes with repetition throughout these verses. What's repeated and why do you think he's emphasizing these points?

**Here are examples:**

**The Trinitarian references to "Spirit," "Lord," and "God" in vv. 3 and 4-6.**

**"varieties of \_\_\_\_\_, but the same \_\_\_\_\_" in vv. 4-6**

**"to another \_\_\_\_\_, by the one [or] same Spirit" in vv. 8-10**

*Application:* What significance do you think spiritual gifts have to the church today? What examples do you see at Calvary?

3. Paul says there are "varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit." Why do you think it's important for the Corinthians to realize that there's both a diversity of gifts and a unity of where they come from?

**A big part of the Corinthians struggle at unity seems to be that they are dividing over gifts. They likely are operating with the belief that some gifts are more important than others (like prophecy and tongues). Paul wants them to understand that the Spirit gives a variety of other gifts as well, but that they all come from the same Source.**

*Application:* Do you think this message is relevant to us in the church today? Why?

4. Verses 4-6 underscore how there are varieties of gifts, varieties of service, and varieties of activities. What do you think the connection is between these?

**Spiritual gifts have a purpose behind them that is for the benefit of others, not just the one who has the gift. Each gift is meant to be used for service and the activities of ministry that build up and bless the church. This will become more clear in the next few weeks.**

*Application:* What experience have you had in recognizing your spiritual gift(s) and putting them into action?

Some people may not feel they have a good idea of what gifts they have. It's important to realize that Paul is not listing every possible spiritual gift here or in the other lists that appear in the NT. These are examples but it's not comprehensive. Second, one of the most helpful things we can do to begin to discern what gifts we have is to simply start serving in an area where there's a need. Our experience of serving can, over time, help us see how God has equipped us for "the common good."

5. Verses 7-11 are an example of the varieties of gifts given by the Holy Spirit. What overarching purpose does Paul say these are for?

He says they're for "the common good." They're for the good of the church, rather than merely for each person. Another way of putting it is that they're for God's sovereign purposes where the Spirit "apportions to each one individually as he wills."

*Application:* How have you benefited from someone else's spiritual gifts in the church? How do you think others have been helped by yours?