



[study guide]

THE COMMON GOOD: Week 1 2.17.13: I Corinthians 12:1-7

[warm up]

What was the best gift you ever received or gave? What was the occasion? Are you better at giving or receiving gifts?

What are the top 2 or 3 volunteer positions you have experienced at church or in the community? Why did these 2 or 3 serving experiences make it to the top of your list?

[dig in]

Read I Corinthians 12:1-7. This past weekend, we defined “spiritual gift” this way: A supernatural ability activated and empowered by the Holy Spirit that enables a believer to build up the body of Christ in a unique way. What does it mean to say that the Holy Spirit activates and empowers spiritual gifts?

Re-read I Corinthians 12:1. In what ways do you think believers are misinformed or uninformed about spiritual gifts? How can believers become more informed?

According to I Corinthians 12:2, pagan worship practices impacted worship in the church in Corinth. What might that have looked like? What do I Corinthians 14:33 and I Corinthians 14:40 teach us about the use of spiritual gifts in worship?

In light of I Corinthians 12:3 and John 16:13-14, which Person of the Trinity does the Spirit seek to honor? Why is the content (rather than the experience) of worship most important (v. 3)? Have you ever seen a church where the spiritual gifts (or even the Spirit’s role in giving the gifts) are emphasized more than Jesus? What can a church do to make sure that Christ alone is glorified through the exercise of spiritual gifts?

Re-read I Corinthians 12:4. We are going to learn more about each spiritual gift next week. For now, make a simple list of all the gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:4-11, I Corinthians 12:28-30, Ephesians 4:11, and I Peter 4:9-11. What do you think your spiritual gift(s) might be?

Re-read I Corinthians 12:5. To the best of your knowledge, make a list of CVC ministries where servants are needed.



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According to I Corinthians 12:6, we get our resources to serve from God. What would you say to the person who says he/she can't serve because they don't have the time or energy? What might they be missing if they don't serve?

According to I Corinthians 12:7, what is the purpose of spiritual gifts? What additional information do we learn about the purpose of spiritual gifts from I Corinthians 14:12 and Ephesians 4:12?

Read I Timothy 4:14 and II Timothy 1:6. According to these verses, what are some possible ways believers can mistreat or misuse the spiritual gift that has been given to them? How have you mistreated or misused your gift in the past? What can we do to insure this doesn't happen in the future?

[living it out]

How has your understanding of spiritual gift(s) developed after studying I Corinthians 12:1-7? How will you serve differently?

Take the time to go around your LifeGroup affirming the strengths and gifts you see in one another. Take turns having one person sit in silence while the others affirm his or her strengths.

Have everyone share in your LifeGroup where each one is currently volunteering to serve at CVC. If someone is not serving, encourage that person to find a place of service that corresponds to his/her spiritual gift(s). They can go to www.cvconline.org and click on Volunteer Opportunities.

Close your LifeGroup session in prayer. Pray that each person in your LifeGroup would bear fruit and find fulfillment in the exercise of their spiritual gift(s).