

## **LESSON 20: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-31**

### **Spiritual Gifts**

1. What test does Paul give to help the Corinthians discern the spirits (vv. 1-3)? (Compare 1 John 4:1-3.) In what areas of your life would this test be helpful?
2. In verses 4-6 Paul outlines three categories of “kinds” in the church. What are these three different kinds of things? But in what way are they the same? What is the point he’s making here?
3. What is your understanding of the gifts of the Spirit? To whom are the gifts given (v. 7)? What does this say tell you about the value of each person in the body of Christ?
4. Are the gifts still operative? What is their purpose (v. 7)?
5. List the gifts of the Spirit that are referred to in this and other passages of Scripture (vv. 7-11; see also v. 28; Rom.12:6-8; Eph.4:11; and 1 Pet..4:10). What is Paul’s point in writing up this list (v. 11)? What gifts are most affirmed, and what gifts are not affirmed as applicable for today (i.e., in Faith Presbyterian Church)? Why?
6. What responsibility does possession of a spiritual gift of gifts place upon the believer? How should spiritual gifts be discovered, encouraged, and affirmed in the Church? What is/are yours? How is it contributing to the “common good” of Faith Church?

## **One Body, Many Parts**

1. How are Christians like a human body (vv. 12-13)? Why is Christian unity important? (See also v. 26.)
  
2. If Paul were writing today, what divisions in our culture would he state are overcome in the oneness of Christ's body? Describe an event in your life in which you have experienced the oneness of the body of Christ.
  
3. In the body of Christ, what happens when one particular gift is emphasized to the exclusion of others?
  
4. Why might some members of Faith feel useless or inferior within the body? What is the answer (vv. 14-20)? How does Paul handle the human tendency toward self-doubt? Why might some members of Faith feel superior to others within the body? What is the answer (vv. 21-26)? What are causes of the "independent spirit" that threatens the members of the body of Christ?
  
5. How should the reality of unity in Christ be manifested in the life of your Church? What hindrances are there in realizing that unity?
  
6. Define each of the eight ministries mentioned in v. 28: apostle, prophet, teacher, miracle worker, healer, helper, administrator, speaker, and interpreter of tongues. What are the higher gifts? Why are they "higher?" How do you "seek" them? Paul does not offer a complete list of spiritual gifts in this chapter, and not "all" have the gifts which he lists (vv. 27-30). However, what should all of us "eagerly desire" (v. 31)?
  
7. What, in summary, does chapter 12 teach about the source, purpose, variety, and priority of spiritual gifts? What does this chapter teach about unity and diversity in the body of Christ?