



Life In The Spirit – One Body, Many Parts

Date: Sunday 19th May, 2019

Speakers: Steve Philpott & Jeff Stamps

Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Talk Summary

- Summary: We are united under Lord Jesus, set apart by God and filled with his Holy Spirit, each given gifts for the common good, let's set aside competition and comparison and honour one another, so that together we can show the world Jesus
- The people in the Corinthian church are competing and comparing their gifts to see who is the best. Paul knows he needs to address this as Competition and comparison kills community.
- V12-13: We are unified under Jesus as our lord and by all having the same Holy Spirit. We are also set apart to live counter cultural lives
- V14-17: it's easy to look around and think, I don't fit in here. But the more different you are the more we need you. Unity in Diversity is an essential part of revealing Jesus to the world.
- V18-20: God builds the church, your hear because God wants you to be, you have something valuable to contribute, we need you. Don't disqualify yourself. - Discover your gifts and use them (Rooted)
- V21-26: We need each other. Some gifts are more visible than others. But visibility is not equal to value. E.g. without the gifts of administration and helps there would be no church.
- Competition and comparison kill community! Let's be a community that celebrates others successes and sympathizes with others struggles. When someone else succeeds that doesn't have any effect on your value.
- V27-31: (Ephesians 4:11-13) The "offices" were functional and relational it was not a job title. So we don't tend to give people titles in the vineyard because it can quickly become unhelpful. But there are defiantly people within our church and movement that we would respect as consistently operating in these gifts. But ultimately the gifts aren't for you and they aren't for your reputation. if

your good at something your job is to teach other people so that the whole church can grow in maturity.

The two main things that God wants to shift in us as a community through this series is:

- 1) Eagerly desire - Lets not be passive when it comes to the things of the spirit - but let's eagerly desire them. We want to be a church that goes after all God has for us.
- 2) For the common good - Lets not come to church with a consumer mindset (ie. What am I getting out of this, how can this church serve me, what do I need). But rather, how can I serve, what can I contribute, who can I help.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, is there anything in the passage that stands out to you? What did you find surprising or challenging and why?
2. Comparison either leads to pride (I'm better than everyone) or disqualifying yourself (I have nothing to offer). On the spectrum which way do your thoughts about yourself tend to go? Why?
3. What are some of the results that come from competition? Is competition in a community always bad?
4. Do you eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit? Is there any way in which this desire is drive by competition or comparison? How do we maintain a position of eagerly desiring the gifts without straying into comparison or competition?
5. What do you think it looks like for us to rejoice with those who are honoured and suffer with those who suffer? How can we cultivate this personally and as a community?
6. Who in your life do you think would benefit from an invitation to be part of Christian community?