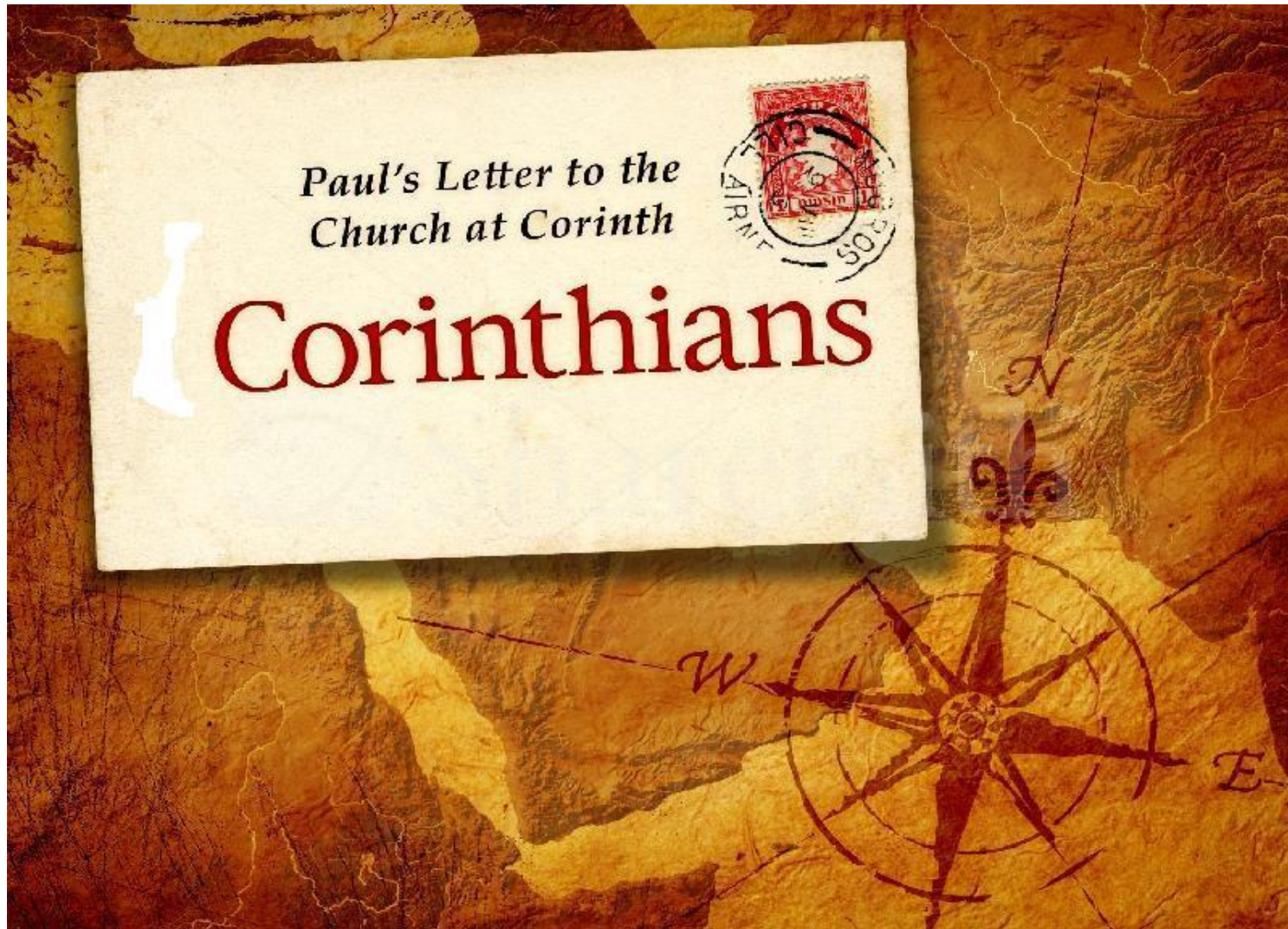


1 Cor. 12:1- 6

Understanding Spiritual Gifts





Brief Overview of 1 Cor. Chp 12 to 14*

- Chapter 12 - Presents the facts of spiritual gifts and their purpose
- Chapter 13 - Presents spiritual gifts and their relationship to things permanent
- Chapter 14 - Presents spiritual gifts and their perversion at Corinth

* Merryman

Chp 12:1 - 6 Outline*



- A. Review of Their Pagan Past 12:1-3
 - 1. The Subject Introduced 12:1
 - a. The Spirituals - “*Pneumatikon*”
 - b. The Gifts – “*Charisma*”
 - 2. The Contrast Made With Their Past 12:2-3
 - a. What They Once Were 12:2a
 - b. How They Were Once Influenced
 - c. How They Have Now Been Changed 12:3
- B. Statement of Their Existing Gifts 12:4-11
 - 1. Their Divine Origin 12:4-6
 - a. In God the Holy Spirit 12:4
 - b. In God the Son 12:5
 - c. In God the Father 12:6

* from McCalley

Today's Verses



- 1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.
- 2 You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.
- 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
- 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.
- 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.

¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.



Now concerning – *de peri*

- 1 Cor 7:1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.
- 1 Cor 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

Paul will now discuss another topic about which the Corinthians wrote to him about - spiritual gifts.

verb - **I do not want** or wish – present tense

- Rom 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you

¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.



you (Corinthians) *to be unaware*

to be unaware - *agnoeō* - to be ignorant of

- 1 Cor 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea.

concerning spiritual gifts

spiritual – *pneumatikon* – lit: spirituals; that which is characterized by the Holy Spirit

- The context tells what these *spirituals* are. Verses 9-10 show them to be special abilities for serving the body of Christ.

McCalley

¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.



More on *spirituals*

- The word *spirituals* is used two ways in the New Testament. McCalley
 - First, it is used of anything that pertains to the person of the Holy Spirit.
 - Second, it is used to designate the work that He does in the life of the believer.
- These special abilities are supplied by God the Holy Spirit.



² You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.

you know – *oida* – you know on basis of facts

that when you (Corinthians) *were pagans*

pagans – *ethnos* - spoken of all who are not Israelites and implying idolatry and ignorance of the true God, i.e., the heathen, pagan nations

- There are not many religions; there are only two
- paganism and Christianity. McCalley

you were led astray to the mute idols

[you were] being carried away to the mute idols Interlinear

being carried away - *apagō* - to lead away" (*apo*, "from," *agō*, "to lead"), is rendered "carried" in 1 Cor. 12:2

² You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.



to the mute idols

- **mute** - *aphōnos* - "voiceless, or soundless"
(*a*, negative and *phōnē*, "a sound") - reference to voice
- Paganism followed idols that could not express their will or answer questions. McCalley
- the idols, which do not have the faculty of speech Wuest
- Dumb idols are idols that do not speak in contrast with the living God who does speak. Constable
- Heb 1:1-2a God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son.

² You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.



- What God has said He has put into Scripture.

however you were [being] led - passive voice

- First, they were led by many means. This fact is indicated by the word *however*. The reference would be to the multitude of pagan teachers that had influenced them in their former life. McCalley
- Second, they *were led* to one end. Every time they were led [it was] to an idol of some sort.

McCalley



³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore – now a criteria to test what is from God

verb - I make known - *gnōrizō* - reasserting things already known, 1 Cor. 12:3, "I give (you) to understand" Vine

1st - no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"

by - *en* - by means of

- Only a believer can speak "by means of" the Holy Spirit.
- No one [that] the Holy Spirit motivated would curse Jesus Christ. Constable
- A believer's speech should agree with Scripture. If it does not, he is not speaking by means of the Spirit.

Act 26:11

³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.



2nd - no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit

by - *en* - by means of

- Only a believer can truly say "Jesus is Lord."
- An example of this is Thomas's declaration: "My Lord and my God!"
- The Holy Spirit's function is to glorify the person of Christ.
- The recognition of Jesus as the Lord indicates that the Holy Spirit has now worked in the former pagan Corinthians.

McCalley

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.



now there are varieties of gifts

there are – *eimi* – the state in which something
continually exist - present tense

varieties - *diaíresis* - distribution, apportionments
lit: different kinds

- Rom 12:6a Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...

of gifts – *charisma* - "a gift of grace, a gift involving
grace" (*charis*) on the part of God as the donor

- Heb 2:4 God also testifying with them --- and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.



but the same Spirit

same – only one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit gives many different abilities to different people. Merryman
- "Gifts" are abilities that enable a person to glorify and serve God. Constable
- God the Holy Spirit appoints these gifts. Merryman
- It is God the Holy Spirit's will not ours - 1 Cor. 12:11b.
- The unity of the Trinity is shown in verses 4,5 and 6.



5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord
and there are varieties of ministries

there are – *eimi* – the state in which something
continually exist - present tense

varieties - *diaíresis* - division, distribution, classification
lit: different kinds

of ministries - *diakonia* - service, ministry; is used of the
service of believers to the body of Christ

- note “service” is one the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Rom 12:6-7 --- each of us is to exercise them (gifts)
accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of
his faith; if service, in his serving; ---

and the same Lord

- The second person of the Trinity is now introduced
as the source of gifts [service].

McCalley

⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.



There are varieties of effects

of effects - *enérġēma* - effect, working, energizing; it is the results of the energy of God in the believer. The results are energized by God's grace.

but the same God

- The first person of the Trinity is now introduced as the energy in the believer.

who works (energizes) all things in all persons

- It is God who is responsible for our abilities, our opportunities for service, and the individual ways in which we minister including the results. Constable

Final Thoughts *



- All members of the Trinity are involved in the functioning of spiritual gifts.
- There is unity among the members of the Trinity.
- There is to be this same unity in the local body of believers.
- The key result of spiritual gifts in the local body is unity for the common good.
- 1 Cor 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

* adapted from R. Merryman