

Introduction to 1 Corinthians:

When God wants to change a culture, He...

Calls, gifts, and sends one of His servants to be His agent of change. (1)

Establishes and builds His church. (2)

Releases His continued grace and peace. (3)

Questions for Discussion:

Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is/are? If so, how are you using it/them?

If you don't know your spiritual gift(s), use the attached worksheet to cross out those gifts you believe you don't have, circle those you believe you do have, and share your sheet with your family and Harvest Group members for feedback and recommendations for how to use them.

Are you half-hearted or whole-hearted in your service to Christ?

If not whole-hearted, what would it look like for you to move toward being whole-hearted?

Is your service to Christ *centered* in assisting Him in building His Church, or is the church *peripheral*?

If the church is peripheral, what would it look like for you to become more centered on it?

How do you see your identity:

- A sinner saved by grace?
- A saint who occasionally sins?

Upon what do you base your choice?

What do you recall from Pastor Jeff's "Introduction to 1 Corinthians" about Corinth and the church there?

What do you think is the significance of Paul calling the Corinthian believers "saints?"

What difference do you think a biblical understanding of our identity can have for how we live?

What evidence is there in your life that you are devoted to corporate prayer?

What opportunities can you take advantage of to become more devoted to corporate prayer?

Core Passages on Spiritual Gifts (NASB)

Romans 12:3-8

3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *let each exercise them accordingly*: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; 8 or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another **the word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, 10 and to another **the effecting of miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another **the distinguishing of spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, and to another **the interpretation of tongues**. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then **gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues**. 29 All are not **apostles**, are they? All are not **prophets**, are they? All are not **teachers**, are they? All are not **workers of miracles**, are they? 30 All do not have **gifts of healings**, do they? All do not **speak with tongues**, do they? All do not **interpret**, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. **And I show you a still more excellent way**.

Ephesians 4:11-12

11 And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever **speaks**, *let him speak*, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever **serves**, *let him do so* as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.