

Finally Home | Climbing Family Mountain Together

1 Corinthians 12:4-14

I. Introduction

A. Renewal Church – Where it's safe to be known and walk the long journey of change together.

B. I want to leave a legacy of transformation (Spirit-led leaders and systems...)

C. This requires your ownership.

II. Text – 1 Corinthians 12:4-14

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

- "varieties of gifts...service...activities" – This isn't just about spiritual gifts, but how believers function together.
- "Service...is a general term used in secular Greek for all kinds of work...everyday acts of service must be included..."¹
- Think of it as Behaviors of the Holy Spirit that we are learning together.

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

- Every believer has been given a gift.
- The purpose: "For the common good"...or..."for the profit of all" (NKJV).
- Every believer is responsible for the health of their church.

8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All

¹ Carson, D.A. Showing The Spirit: A Theological Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12-14. 1987. 33-34.

these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- Not an exhaustive inventory of the gifts.
- The question: Will your gifts, service, activity be 1) discovered and used and 2) will they be used for the correct purpose?...
- Romans 12:6-8: *"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."*
- Gifts —> Charisma (Gk) = Grace ("grace-gift").
- Usages of "charisma" (not always a spiritual gift):
 - Romans 6:23 – salvation: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
 - Romans 1:11: *"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you"* (Paul proceeds to teach them 16-chapters of theology!)
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11: *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ..."*
 - Gifts, service, and activities are given to each of us so that we can add grace to one another's lives, which brings glory to God.

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

- Everyone of us is uniquely called and equipped to strengthen this church. You are not insignificant.
- We weren't only baptized into Christ. We were baptized into each other.
- What are the implications of this?

- God brought people together who have painful backgrounds and hard edges and different viewpoints to stimulate devotion to Jesus and love for one another.
- We are to drink of the Spirit together. Worship. Pray. Teach. Learn. Confess & repent. Together.
- We are to routinely worship together as a community, not just in organized gatherings, but organically.
- This means that the primary motive behind discovering your gift isn't so you'll feel needed, but so you can live like God does.
- Can you think of other implications?
 - All of us were baptized by the Holy Spirit into one body, and we are emerging as a new kind of people, a new ethnic group, with its own culture practices and beliefs.

III. "Family Mountain" diagrams

- A. We need to dig a bit deeper before this is compelling enough for some of us to act...
- B. [Advance each slide at Chris' cue]

IV. Conclusion:

- A. Where are you?
- B. What is it you need to do?
 1. Awesome Hill: Get ready...get sober...
 2. Crappy Valley: Repent? Drop your idealism? Get back in the game by pursuing community?
 3. Family Mountain: Don't be naive. Hard times will come again. Enjoy the view. But get ready.

V. Baptisms?

VI. Communion.