

LIFE GROUP

Notes

Session 9



READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

In this passage Paul continues to address the issue of the gifts and abilities God has given us through the work of the Holy Spirit; in particular looking at how we should value and use these gifts in loving each other and thereby ensuring the body works more effectively.

IN

Introduction

Either: Ask each person to complete either/both of the following (before sharing)

- Spiritual gifts are important because ...
- I need to be around others as much as ...

Or: Describe a time when you benefitted from someone else or others having a different perspective or ability than you have.

UP

Explore

Read through the passage, maybe try reading it in a different version such as The Message so it comes alive.

- Verses 12-13. What's your reaction to the idea here that we are all part of one body? What are the implications for how we relate to each other?
 - Verses 14-21 and 21- 26. "The Curse of Inferiority and the Curse of Superiority!" Paul addresses those who feel their gifts mean they are inferior to others, and then those who feel their gifts makes them superior. Are you more likely to feel others don't need you or that you don't need them? What might our responsibilities be towards each other in either case?
 - What does Paul mean by saying some parts of the body are less honourable or less presentable? Are there any implications for how we treat each other?
 - Verses 27-31. This list of gifts is different from those at the beginning of the chapter 12 verses 4-11. What do you think of the differences? Are these "gift lists" exhaustive?
 - What practically does it mean for each of us to "eagerly desire the greater gifts?"
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OUT

Impact

Either: Spend some extended time praying for each other

Or: Help each person identify one way in which you can plan to use your gifts this week to build up someone else in the church – and then pray together about this