



Nov 29 Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

We wrapped up our “God’s Expectations Of Christians” series with this takeaway:

God has given you specific spiritual gifts -- use them to bring glory to Him.

God gives His people extraordinary gifts and talents to serve Christ and His church. These gifts are meant to shape our churches into the image of Christ. That way, Christians will be encouraged and unbelievers will know the Savior. But what happens if Christians do not know or use their gifts?

Do you have a sense of what your spiritual gifts are? What difference has knowing those gifts made in your walk with the Lord?

Into the Word:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14–26

You might be tempted to think that Paul is giving the “everybody is important” speech to the Corinthians. Sort of like a parent telling their child that is playing a sheep in the Christmas play that they are important, too. But that is not the case. Paul is saying that God has placed every person in His church in the place that they are supposed to be in order to accomplish the goal of reaching a people that need a Savior. Each person has a part to play and the goal cannot be reached if one part is not doing what it is supposed, or gifted, to do. No gift or talent is more important or superior than another.

Some people in the Corinthian church thought their gift made them more spiritual and more important than others. In what ways does that kind of thinking occur in churches today?

Is there a hierarchy of gifts? Which gifts are considered most important? Which is least important? How does Paul address that issue?

If you are a Christ follower, what changed in your life when you became a Christian? Were you able to do some things that you never had the courage to do before? Explain. Did you have the gifts to do that before, or did they only come after your salvation?

Apply The Word

People in almost every church fail to be generous with their gifts. It could be that we don’t know how important these gifts are to the congregation, or maybe fear is holding us back. It is important for us to realize that God has placed His people in churches as He needs to in order to accomplish His purpose.

That mixture of gifts and talents is who a church really is. We are wrong to try and fit our church to look like some other church. Rather, we should “paint with the colors God gives us”, shaping the church according to its spiritual gifts and talents.

Those gifts must be developed. That is the “grow in Him” part of our mission. We should be open and looking for every opportunity to let people be generous in using their gifts and talents.

Imagine this. A person gets a box delivered to them from a loving friend or family member. But instead of opening it, they just go about their busy life and the box just gathers dust as it sits in the corner.

What kind of person would get a wonderful, exciting gift from God, full of unknown adventures and usefulness, and leave it an unopened box? Take the time to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your gift to you and to help you develop it.