

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #42 – Sunday AM2 September 9, 2007

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. . .

1 Corinthians 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you;” or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”



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POD (review): The believer, no matter how prominent his spiritual gift, should not overestimate his own importance.

POD (review): The less prominent gifts should never underestimate their importance.

Prominent - readily noticeable because of where it is located on the body

POD in Review: The believer is designed by God and placed in the body of Christ to function interdependently, not independently.

1 Corinthians 12:22-24 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be **weaker** are necessary; ²³ and those *members* of the body which we deem **less honorable**, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our **less presentable members** become much more presentable, ²⁴ whereas our **more presentable members** have no need. . .

²² On the contrary [*contrast vs. 21*], it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be **weaker** are necessary;

➤ The weaker members do not refer to brother eye, brother hand, brother head, or brother feet.

- **Weaker** - ἀσθενής – ASTHENES – Normally someone “*sick or ill*” also “*weak or feeble*” – fragile
- Remember, our endoskeleton, skin, and muscles protect our *fragile* internal organs.
- Internal organs are weak as compared to other parts of the body, but vital – essential - to proper function.

²² On the contrary, it is much truer. . .

- **It is much truer** - πολλῶ μᾶλλον – POLLO plus MALLON
 “To a greater degree;” preceded by “much, many”
 “To a much greater degree”

Corrected Translation ²² *On the contrary, to a much greater degree the members of the body which seem fragile [less prominent] are necessary;*

POD: The less prominent spiritual gifts [*behind the scenes spiritual gifts*] are necessary to a greater degree than the prominent gifts for a ministry to effectively function.

²³ and those *members* of the body which we deem **less honorable**, on these we bestow more abundant honor,

- **Less honorable member** - ἄτιμος – ATMOS – “less honorable; insignificant”

The member is “less honorable” because of where it functions on the body.

NO BELIEVER IS INSIGNIFICANT!

. . . on these we bestow more abundant honor,

- **Honor** – τιμή – TIME – “Honor or value”

Think about this in light of putting on your clothes.

The abundant honor is the clothing we wear.

Those parts of the body which are less honorable receive more abundant honor because we clothe them.

1 Corinthians 12:22-24 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be **weaker** are necessary; ²³ and those *members* of the body which we deem **less honorable**, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our **less presentable members** become much more presentable, ²⁴ whereas our **more presentable members** have no need, but God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked.

. . . and our **less presentable members** become much more presentable [*when they are clothed*],

²⁴ whereas our **more presentable members** have no need. . .

- More presentable members have no need of clothing [*more abundant honor*].
- The more presentable members do not need to be clothed because of where they are on the body.

More presentable members have honor because of their prominent positions on the body.

There are members of the body which require more attention than others.

The more prominent gifts need to attend to the less prominent.

... but God has so composed the body, giving **more abundant honor** to that *member* which lacked,

If you lacked honor you received an abundance of it by way of your spiritual gift.

²⁵ so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

You will experience and appreciate **1 Cor. 12:26** only as you allow yourself to be knitted together by means of the love of Jesus Christ.

WARNING: Contact Required!

²⁷ Now you are Christ's body [*the local church in Corinth*], and individually members of it.

Every local church is a representation of the body of Christ.

If God expands the boundaries of that local church through the functioning of spiritual gifts, the ministry is a representation of the body of Christ.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.