

# Mental

## Sharing Our Gifts

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-13

SESSION 6.23



### ☐ *Prepare in Advance*

- Facilitator: In advance of the session:
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.

### ☐ *Introduce*

Ask the following question to introduce today's session:

- Does your faith community usually talk about "spiritual gifts?" What other names do we sometimes use for the different ways people serve in the church? What is significant about using the word "gift?"

Now read aloud today's focal passage. Watch the *Bible Background Video*, then use the following questions to guide discussion.

### ☐ *Many Gifts, One Spirit*

We don't know much about the situation at Corinth, but sometimes scholars can guess what was going on by examining what Paul was trying to correct.

- Use your imagination... What were the Corinthians doing that Paul was worried about?
- Why do you think Paul begins, right away, by explaining the SOURCE of the gifts that people used?
- What point is Paul making here – who is actually doing the work?
- In verses 4-6, Paul says almost the same thing three times – "different kinds of gifts... service... working" (NIV). Was Paul just strengthening his point, or do you think he was talking about different things?
- Why (v. 7) does the Spirit give these gifts to God's people?

### ☐ *Different Gifts*

Paul lists various gifts in verses 8-11, but scholars and pastors usually point out that this list (and others like it in the New Testament) is not meant to be exhaustive.

- Why is it important to remember this?
- What other gifts might exist, besides these?
- How might we determine what is a gift of the Spirit, and what is simply a human skill? What's the difference (if any)?
- Why is the image of a body – with many parts working together – such an apt way to describe the Spirit working through the people of God?
- How do the parts of a human body work together – how are they coordinated, and how do they cooperate?
- Based on this, what ways can we tell that a church "body" is not functioning properly?

### ☐ *Closing*

- What do you feel are your gifts – given to you by God, to give in service to others?
- How can you use your gift so that the Body can benefit and work together as a whole?

Close with prayer.

*By Jon Parks*

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