

Redemption Hill Church
August 24, 2014
Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12.1-11)

Proposition: All believers have been given spiritual gifts for the good of the church and to the glory of God

1. Introduction
 - a. Illustration: People showing their gifts on Reality TV
 - b. Proposition: All believers have been given spiritual gifts for the good of the church and to the glory of God
2. Preliminaries
 - a. What is the church?
 - i. Not a building, not a business, not a bureaucracy
 - ii. "The church is the people of God who have been saved through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and have been incorporated into his body through baptism with the Holy Spirit." (Gregg Allison)
3. Importance of Spiritual Gifts
 - a. All believers have been given spiritual gifts...
 - i. Along with receiving the Holy Spirit at salvation we are equipped by him with a certain set of gifts/talents/abilities; Ephesians 4.4-7, "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift."
 - ii. These gifts vary among believers.
 1. This diversity of gifts shows off not our own abilities but manifests the diverse power of the Spirit who grants them; cf. vv.4, 11, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ... All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."
 - b. ... for the good of the church...
 - i. The primary goal of our gifts is to be used in building up the church. This means both internal care and concern as well as external outreach; cf. v.7, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Ephesians 4.11-12, " And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." 1 Peter 4.10, " As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

- ii. The Spirit makes himself known through our giftings; cf. v.7, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
 - 1. The work of the church is supernatural. We should not just be a "well-oiled machine."
 - iii. This should alleviate any conflict in us between doing good and protecting the truth. The passion and the quest to manifest God and do good to people are one quest. The way to do good to people is to show them God; the way to know God is to seek him in doing good to other people.
 - c. ... and to the glory of God
 - i. When we make him known and follow him in obedience by serving others, we glorify God; 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: 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. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."
4. Varieties of Spiritual Gifts
- a. There are many different gifts—including ones the biblical authors never thought of—but they can roughly be broken down into two categories
 - i. Speaking
 - 1. Gifts where the person winds up speaking/teaching others. This could be as a pastor or evangelist, but also as a CG or Bible study leader, worship leader, or even church consultant; cf. 1 Peter 4.10-11a, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God."
 - ii. Serving
 - 1. These are the more behind-the-scenes gifts, but equally important. These include greeting, set-up, hospitality, cooking, compiling mailings, etc.; cf. 1 Peter 4.11b, "Whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies."
 - iii. Additional
 - 1. Romans 12.4-8, "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 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."

5. A Challenge

a. If the church is the gathering of saved people, and all those people have been gifted by the Holy Spirit to build up that body, **what are you doing to exercise your gifts?**

b. Bad excuses

i. Works of the law.

ii. Too busy

1. The church is a family and in a family every member has responsibilities. By not using your gifts you are in sin!

c. Examples of ways to serve

i. Serve Team (set-up, greeting, tear down)

ii. Child care

iii. Follow up

iv. Outreach

v. Music

vi. CG Leader

vii. Discipleship

viii. Administration

ix. Hospitality

1. If you're unsure of where you are gifted, ask those who know you. Or just try something and see how it goes. Whatever you do, don't just assume you know without listening to others' input.

6. Conclusion

a. n/a