

2. Paul's desire in 1 Corinthians 12–14 is to demonstrate the ultimate purpose of spiritual gifts, namely the unity of the church and the advancement of the Gospel. How can your spiritual gifts help accomplish this at Eagle Christian Church? In your Small Group?
  
3. Take time to pray for the unity of Eagle Christian Church and the advancement of the gospel.

**Next Steps:**

- I will attend the next 301 class to find out more about how my gift(s) can be used for the common good at Eagle Christian Church.
- I will ask three people who know me well what gift(s) they see God developing in my life.
- I will use my gift(s) to unite and build up the body of Christ.
- I will use my gift(s) to advance the kingdom of God in my world.

**Memory Verse**

*1 Corinthians 12:11*

*All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*



**Being Informed:**

Easter Weekend–April 14-16

Good Friday Service–7 PM

Saturday:

Egg Hunt–6:30 PM, Worship Service–7 PM

Sunday:

Burrito Breakfast–7:30 AM

Worship Services–8:00, 9:15, 10:45 AM; 5 PM

*Please attend the Saturday evening or Sunday 8 AM service if you can.*

**Last Week:** Paul critiqued the Corinthians abuses of the Lord's Supper. Rather than being a uniting force, it was a place of separation and class distinction. People did not wait for each other; some were eating and drinking too much, while others went without, or settled for scraps. Paul corrected the problem and repeated the actions and words of Jesus himself when he instituted the practice of communion.

**Variety of Gifts with Unity in Purpose**

*1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

**This Week:** Paul begins here a lengthy discussion about the role of spiritual gifts within the Christian community that will continue through chapter 14. This section does not describe the particular functions of the spiritual gifts; rather, Paul's concern here is with the purpose and source of all spiritual gifts. In many ways, therefore, this section serves as the heading or introduction to his entire argument spanning through chapter 14.

**Observing**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3  
Why does Paul not want the Corinthians to be uninformed about spiritual gifts?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:3  
What is the distinguishing marker between those who confess Christ and those who deny him (curse him)?
  
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
How many times does Paul mention the Spirit? What are the works and descriptions of the Spirit?
  
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6  
Paul compares and contrasts the varieties of gifts with the oneness of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. How does the oneness and plurality of the Godhead's nature affect our understanding of the variety of gifts?
  
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7  
How does the reference to "the common good" serve to underscore Paul's overall argument? What is the common good?
  
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-10  
This week's sermon mentions how each of these gifts serves to "Reach, Teach, Equip, and Send". As a group, try your best to place each gift within one of these four categories. In what ways can each of these gifts help the Church declare "Jesus is Lord" (vs. 3)?
  
7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:11  
Verse 11 tells us about the prioritization of spiritual gifts. To whom do spiritual gifts ultimately belong?

## Connecting the Dots

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-13 and Romans 12:1-8  
Compare Paul's argument in Ephesians 4 and Romans 12 to our text in 1 Corinthians. What similarities and differences do you see? Is his overall argument the same?
  
2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3  
How does this week's text help us better understand 1 Corinthians 3:1-3?
  
3. Read Acts 1:8  
How are the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12 a continuation of the promise given in Acts 1:8?

## Continuing the Journey

1. Christians are still dividing over spiritual gifts. How can we use our spiritual gifts at Eagle Christian Church to bring unity?