



Outward Focused Follower of Jesus

August 6, 2017

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (HCSB)

¹ Now concerning what comes from the Spirit: brothers, I do not want you to be unaware. ² You know that when you were pagans, you used to be led off to the idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I am informing you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are different activities, but the same God activates each gift in each person. ⁷ A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial: ⁸ to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, ⁹ to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of languages, to another, interpretation of languages. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (HCSB)

¹² For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ So the body is not one part but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," in spite of this it still belongs to the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," in spite of this it still belongs to the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But now God has placed each one of the parts in one body just as He wanted. ¹⁹ And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? ²⁰ Now there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ So the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" Or again, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² But even more, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those parts of the body that we think to be less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unpresentable parts have a better presentation. ²⁴ But our presentable parts have no need of clothing. Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, ²⁵ so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. ²⁶ So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

This is the third and final discussion and will focus on:

- Participating
- Unifying
- Living for Christ

Participating

- Do you consider yourself an active member of UBC? Where are you serving? Are you comfortable where you are serving or do you think you were "forced" to serve where you are serving? Explain.
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. What are Spiritual Gifts? How do you get spiritual gifts? Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? Can you have more than one gift?
- Are you using your spiritual gift(s) in a beneficial way? Where should you be serving based on your spiritual gift(s)? Explain.

Unifying

- Do you feel we are one as a church? Do you believe that we are together – unified? Do we share the same concerns? Are there any divisions? Do you suffer when a church brother/sister suffers? Do you rejoice when others rejoice?
- Read John 17:20-23. Describe what you think Jesus means about us being one? What does He mean about us being one in Him? How about being one in the Father? What does the "oneness" look like to you? What does it mean to be one? What is the purpose of being one?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. Why does the Apostle Paul use the analogy of a body when describing the church? What was his purpose for using this description?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:24-26 again. What are some of the church's attributes as listed in these verses?

John 17:20-23 (HCSB)

²⁰ I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message. ²¹ May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me. ²² I have given them the glory You have given Me. May they be one as We are one.

²³ I am in them and You are in Me. May they be made completely one, so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Philippians 1:21-26 (HCSB)

²¹ For me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. ²³ I am pressured by both. I have the desire to depart and be with Christ—which is far better—²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that, because of me, your confidence may grow in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Philippians 1:27-30 (HCSB)

²⁷ Just one thing: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, working side by side for the faith that comes from the gospel, ²⁸ not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your deliverance—and this is from God. ²⁹ For it has been given to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, ³⁰ having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.

1 Peter 4:1-2 (HCSB)

Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, equip yourselves also with the same resolve—because the one who suffered in the flesh has finished with sin—² in order to live the remaining time in the flesh, no longer for human desires, but for God's will.

Living for Christ

- Do you feel like you live for Jesus? Do you do what He asks of you? Do you try to live as He lived? How do you live for Him? In what ways do you struggle? What prevents you from living for Him?
- Read Philippians 1:21-26. Do you identify with the Apostle Paul's desire to be with Christ, but wanting to remain here as well? What is your main purpose for being here on earth? Do you have a desire to remain here to help others come to know Jesus and/or help other brothers/sisters grow in their faith?
- Read Philippians 1:27-30. How can you live your life in a gospel worthy way? What does that look like?
- Read 1 Peter 4:1-2. What is God's will for you concerning how you are to live your life?

Personal Reflection - Outward Focused

Members of Jesus' church are to participate in Christian ministry using their God-given gifts in service to others.

Members of Jesus' church are to be unifiers in His church...being one with Him and His church.

Members of Jesus' church are to live for Him according to His will.

Pray this prayer with the group

Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer for Spiritual Power

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

¹⁶ I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power in the inner man through His Spirit, ¹⁷ and that the Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith.

I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, ¹⁹ and to know the Messiah's love that surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

Amen.