

1 Cor Chapter 12 It's not the gifts it's the Love

Setting the stage

1. Why is any of this going on and why does Paul bother to write this letter.
 - a. The triune God purposed in himself
 - i. To make a physical creation
 - ii. To create relational creatures
 1. Angels-spiritual realm
 2. Humans-material/spiritual realm
 - iii. He established the first temple
 1. The garden of Eden
 2. Image & dominion
 3. The place where God and man meet
2. Man fell losing the temple relationship
 - a. Living from self-image
 - b. Exercising dominion through power
 - c. God gave them over to the powers
3. God re-established the relationship
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Isreal
4. Isreal fell
 - a. The flesh proven incapable
 - b. Pointing to resolving the promises to Abraham
5. Jesus came
 - a. Fulfilling all the promises
 - b. Ending the old man
 - c. Defeating death, making us alive
 - d. Defeating sin, bringing righteousness
 - e. Becoming the Spirit
6. The Spirit initiates the assembly-the church
 - a. An entirely new creation
 - b. The Spirit dwelling in man
 - c. No separation possible
 - d. A new heart, and a new spirit
7. 20 years later we have the assembly at Corinth
8. Isreal fell because the flesh was weak
 - a. The Spirit was given to defeat the flesh

- b. Sadly, the Corinthians walked according to the flesh

Paul writes 1 Cor to return the Corinthians to walking by the Spirit in proper relation to one another according to John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- c. He utilizes their issues to give them revelation
 - i. Who they are in Christ
 - ii. Who they are in relation to one another
- d. All their issues were relational
 - i. Chap 1-4, picking favorites and dividing amongst them
 - ii. Chap 5 Immorality which is an improper relationship
 - iii. Chap 6 Taking one another to court
 - iv. Chap 7 Improper marital relationships
 - v. Chap 8-10 offending and damaging relationships thru foods related to idolatry
 - vi. Chap 11 destroying the body through insensitivity to others, self-absorption, and cliques
 - vii. Chap 12 Improper application of gifts creating further divisions and cliques

9. Paul's solution in chap 12

- a. Acknowledgement of the validity of gifts
- b. A strong word as to their misapplication of gifts and resulting divisiveness
- c. The metaphor of the body
- d. One anothering, the outworking of our new heart and new spirit

Chap 12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. **(a sarcastic response to their pride and divisiveness)** 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led **(Here Paul literally says they are acting like they did as pagans and compares their usage of the gifts to idolatry)**. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit**(even saying something as basic as calling on the Lord is from the Spirit and on an equal footing as all the other gifts)**. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit **(Paul brings in the Spirit, Lord, and God 13 times in the first 13 verses)**; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good **(the gifts are not to be used for personal building up or for showing off, or for gathering a following but for the common**

good). 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit **(It's the Spirit that's central not the gifts)**, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. 12 **(Paul now comes to the heart of his thoughts, the revelation through metaphor of the body of Christ)**. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit **(The central reality of God's purpose in creation is summed up in the body of Christ. The body metaphor is used to express the reality of the relationships between the saints. God is relational and has through the work and person of Christ restored us into His relationship and that relationship is on display in the church. That is why Paul is so adamant to restore the Corinthians to proper relationships through the Spirit)**. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another **(The same care for one another is the key to the proper expression of Christ in the Church)**. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The one another verses:

There are 100 verses using the term "one another" a single word in Greek.

The foundational usage is when the Lord tells the disciples to "Love one another"

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

This is not a law it is the expression of our new heart and new spirit. We already love one another we just need to remember to live in that.

We have been equipped by Jesus through His life-giving Spirit to express Him as His living body on this earth. As His Building/Temple we firstly are brought together as one then bring together man and God. As we are headed up by Christ the head the entire creation is set right and in proper order.

“One another” is two words in English, but it’s only one word in Greek: ἀλλήλων (*ah-LAY-loan*). It’s used 100 times in 94 New Testament verses.
Instructions to the Church:

1. Be at peace with one another (Mk 9:50)
“Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty *again*? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”
2. Don’t grumble among one another (Jn 6:43)
Jesus answered and said to them, “Do not grumble among One another.
3. Be of the same mind with one another (Ro 12:16, 15:5)
Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.
15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,
4. Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.
5. Wait for one another before beginning the Eucharist (1 Co 11:33)
So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.
6. Don’t bite, devour, and consume one another (Ga 5:15)
But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.
7. Don’t boastfully challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26)
Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

8. Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Ep 4:2)
With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
9. Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another (Ep 4:32)
Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
10. Bear with and forgive one another (Co 3:13)
Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
11. Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil (1 Th 5:15)
See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.
12. Don't complain against one another (Jas 4:11a, 5:9)
Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother,
5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
13. Confess sins to one another (Jas 5:16a)
Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.

Love one another:

1. Love one another (Jn 13:34, 15:12, 17; Ro 13:8; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9; 1 Pe 1:22; 1 Jn 3:11, 4:7, 11; 2 Jn 5)
John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
John 15:17 "This I command you, that you love one another.

Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;

1 Thessalonians 4:9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

1 John 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

2 John 5 Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

2. Through love, serve one another (Ga 5:13)

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

3. Tolerate one another in love (Ep 4:2)

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

4. Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Pe 5:14)

Greet one another with a kiss of love.

5. Be devoted to one another in love (Ro 12:10)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Having an attitude of humility:

1. Give preference to one another in honor (Ro 12:10)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

2. Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

3. Serve one another (Ga 5:13)

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

4. Wash one another's feet (Jn 13:14)

"If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

5. Don't be haughty: be of the same mind (Ro 12:16)

Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

6. Be subject to one another (Ep 5:21)

And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

7. Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5a)

You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,

Here's the rest:

1. Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Ro 14:13)

Therefore, let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

2. Greet one another with a kiss (Ro 16:16; 1 Co 16:20; 2 Co 13:12)
Romans 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
1 Corinthians 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.
2 Corinthians 13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.
3. Husbands and wives: don't deprive one another of physical intimacy (1 Co 7:5)
Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
4. Bear one another's burdens (Ga 6:2)
Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.
5. Speak truth to one another (Ep 4:25)
Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.
6. Don't lie to one another (Co 3:9)
Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,
7. Comfort one another concerning the resurrection (1 Th 4:18)
Therefore comfort one another with these words.
8. Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.
9. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (He 10:24)

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
10. Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)
Be hospitable to one another without complaint