

Honor in the Church

I Corinthians 12:12-31

8/26/01

Intro

- Growth Groups
- Pastor Steve

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Paul is in the middle of answering a question from the church in Corinth regarding the Holy Spirit. Apparently, there was division in the church over the use of Spiritual gifts.

He started out by saying that he didn't want them to be ignorant of Spiritual gifts and so neither should we.

Apparently, the division was due to some people acting superior to others. If someone had a gift that someone else didn't have, then that person was looking down his nose at the others.

Paul corrects any misunderstandings about the use of Spiritual gifts and encourages them to seek earnestly the greater gifts. But remember the gifts are given so we can bless others.

This is about how the we should earnestly desire to be all we can be for Christ.

I. We are the "body" of Christ.

Vs 12

A. We become the arms, legs, and hands of Christ.

- If He is going to love on someone, He uses one of us to do it.

- "But that's not my gift," someone might say.
- Let's not let apathy set in.

Vs 13

B. We were all baptized into one body.

- This is the Spirit baptizing us into Christ.
- We were made to drink of one Spirit.
- Therefore, we should keep our differences in perspective.

Illus – There isn't going to be different sections in heaven for the Baptists, Presbyterians, etc...

II. Let there be honor in the church.

Vs 15-26

A. Everyone is essential. No one has less value or honor than any other.

Illus- In the restaurant business everyone is essential.

- It takes many parts to make a whole

Illus- What if we were all a hand, or a toe?

B. We show honor when we serve each other.

Illus- When Pastor Matthew was in Africa and put away the chairs.

- I believe we're going to be shocked when we get to heaven and we see who gets honor!

III. Earnestly desire the greater gifts.

- A. He doesn't tell us what they are, but it seems to me, that it is the gift most needed at the moment.

Illus – when the power went out during our outreach, the greatest gift was that of helps.

Illus- The dough- boy pool man.

- B. Paul tells us to *earnestly desire*.

Illus- Elisha wanted a double portion.

- Jesus gave a parable of the talents.
- He wants us to be good stewards of the gifts we've received.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit can't be purchased, or even earned. There was a man from Samaria named Simon that say people receiving the Holy Spirit and wanted to buy that power. No, it can't be purchased.

But it can be asked for. Seek earnestly.