

Daily Bible Study Guide for September 7–12, 2009

Monday, September 7

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:27–31

1. Scan all of 1 Corinthians and see if you can find any other place where the Apostle Paul specifically says that Christians are the body of Christ.

2. If the concept of being Christ's body is mentioned elsewhere, what was said? If the idea is introduced here for the first time, why did Paul take so much time to get to this point?

3. Individuality was emphasized in previous verses. Why is that concept brought up again in verse 27?

4. With the idea of individuality in mind, why *must* the church display a variety of spiritual gifts?

5. Discussion/Application: What would happen to our church if we did not put in to practice what we have been learning in 1 Corinthians 12?

The Place and Purpose of Love

1 Corinthians 12:27-31



5th in a series in
I Corinthians 12

²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?

³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

This is the final Study Guide for 1 Corinthians 12. Its purpose is to bring clarity to an issue that created controversy among the Corinthians and among many others since then—What spiritual gift should I *want* to have?

Tuesday, September 8

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:28

1. How do you think God makes the appointments mentioned in verse 28?

2. *Why* do you think God makes the appointments mentioned in verse 28?

3. Verse 31 mentions “the greater gifts.” Which of the gifts do you believe are the greater ones?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:22–25 and see if you want to keep your answer to the previous question.

5. Discussion/Application: Why are we told to earnestly desire certain gifts when it is God who distributes the gifts just as He wills?

Wednesday, September 9

Read: The verses below

1. What is the mark of a true apostle, according to 2 Corinthians 2:12?

2. What other qualifications are required to be an apostle? (Hebrews 2:1–4)

3. What contributions to the church do apostles make?

4. What makes it easy to spot a false apostle? What makes it difficult? (2 Corinthians 11:1–11)

5. Discussion/Application: Do you think the gift of apostleship is still in operation today? Why or why not?

Thursday, September 10

Read: The verses below

1. What is the mark of a false prophet, according to 2 Peter 2:1?

2. What secret does a false prophet not want revealed?

3. How do false prophets get people to believe their false teachings?

4. How can the secrets of a false prophet be exposed?

5. Discussion/Application: Do you think apostleship appointments still occur in the church? Why or why not?

Friday, September 11

Read: The verses below

1. What warning is given to teachers in James 3:1?

2. Why is God more strict with teachers than with other believers?

3. What do teachers in the church typically teach?

4. What are teachers in the church *expected* to teach? (Ephesians 4:11–12)

5. Discussion/Application: How does a teacher know when he has effectively taught?

Saturday, September 12

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

1. Do you think there is a reason that the final five gifts are not ranked like the first three? If so, what is that reason?

2. What implied question or problem is Paul addressing in verses 29 and 30?

3. What is the point Paul is making in verses 29 and 30?

4. The “more excellent way” is not mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. Where, then, is it described?

5. Discussion/Application: What are your observations about “the more excellent way”?
