

## Equipped to Be Good and Serve

### 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

#### Bible Text:

#### 1 Corinthians 12:1–11

#### Spiritual Gifts

**12** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

<sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

#### Food for Thought:

*Did you ever see the movie Ratatouille? Do you remember the main theme of the movie? “Anyone can cook!” In fact, the movie took this line so seriously that its main character (the world’s best chef) was none other than Remy... a rat. While this made for a good movie (and I quite agree that all people can cook, although... perhaps not a rat...), this kind of thinking doesn’t really work well in other areas in life, specifically in morality and spirituality. There are two main misconceptions that people have in regards to goodness and service: 1) Everyone can be good, even though they don’t believe in God, and the opposite, 2) Even though I believe in God, I am not able to serve or be good. Both of these are wrong statements, for according to our text today, none can be good and serve properly except those who submit to Christ, and likewise, there is no one who submits to Christ who is unable to serve Him and be good. Let’s take a look today in our study.*

## Bible Study

### Section 1: Can I Be Good Without God?

#### 1 Corinthians 12:1–3

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup>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.

#### Questions:

1. According to this verse, it is possible for those who are “brothers” (saved by Christ) to be “uninformed”, or to not know that they have an ability to serve the Lord. What is the impact of a Christian being *gifted to serve*, but either not knowing about it, or thinking that their gift is useless? What is the impact to the believer? What is the impact to the Church?
2. Paul says that while they were non-Christian, the Corinthians were led in many different ways to “follow” and “serve” their god or goodness. What are some ways in which unbelievers today believe they are in service to goodness but are actually against what God teaches? (Think about the things that the world champions today, especially in popular culture).
3. Often times unbelievers argue that they know what is good because their god teaches them, or that their morality is self-evident, but Paul says their sources of wisdom and goodness are “mute” (they cannot speak). If they do not get their goodness from any spiritual source like they think they do, then where are they actually getting it from? (Think about the following possibilities: from their own hearts, from demons, being led astray by other people).
4. Paul says that those who follow the Spirit of God cannot proclaim “Jesus is accursed”, yet there are plenty who deny Christ (say He didn’t rise from the dead in glory) and claim to follow what God would want. What does it mean when Paul says one cannot serve God unless they are willing to proclaim with their heart “Jesus is Lord”? Why is that so?
5. According to this section, is it possible to be good and do good things without believing in God? Where should we get our definition of proper service to God?

## **Section 2: Anyone Can Serve**

### **1 Corinthians 12:4–11**

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

#### **Questions:**

1. This section says that there are a *variety of gifts and activities* to serve the same God, but so often believers think that serving God means just 3 things: teaching, missions, and worship team. Why do you think believers think like that so often? What's wrong with this type of thinking?
2. Is there any service, according to this section, that is *less important*, or *less called by* God? What is the significance that it says, "the same God empowers all service in all people"?
3. Why do you think God uses so many different ways to minister for His glory? What is the benefit to the Church? What is the benefit to unbelievers who the church ministers to?
4. According to this section, it is possible for one person to be gifted with great spiritual maturity and service in *one* area, but not another. Does this mean a person who is weak in a certain spiritual gifting is unqualified or less equipped to serve than others? Why or why not?
5. Brainstorm how the following can be used in service to God:
  - a. Artistic with a great attention to detail
  - b. Outgoing and not shy in front of people
  - c. Not outgoing, but loves to pray
  - d. Great with technology
  - e. Love for organization and administration
  - f. Loving to serve in secret without being noticed
  - g. Great at making friends with strangers
  - h. Good at expressing oneself with words/poetry
  - i. Love to cook
  - j. Active person who loves to have physical fun