



Paul's points for understanding the context of spiritual gifts

Ephesians 4:1-16

- The Church is called the “body.”
- There is one Body led by one [Holy] Spirit.
- God is over all, in control, and working in the Church.
- God gives grace and gifts to the members of that Body.
- Jesus Christ gives gifts to equip the saints for works of service, for edifying the Body that is the Church, so that we can be perfected like Jesus Christ.
- Christ is the Head of the Church.
- Every part of the Body has a part to play and a role to share.
- This leads to growth of the Body as it edifies itself in love.

1 Corinthians 12:1–13:10

- God doesn't want us to be uninformed about spiritual gifts.
- The gifts given are different, but the same Spirit is behind them.
- There are different ways to serve, but the same Master, Jesus Christ, is behind them.
- There are different activities of the Body, but God works in all of them.
- The working of God's Spirit is given to each member for the benefit of all members.

- God distributes gifts as He sees fit (for the overall benefit of the Body).
- The one Body is made up of many members.
- * God places members in the Body as He sees fit.
- All the parts of the Body are important and have a role to play.
- God does not want the Body divided, but unified.
- All members have a part in caring for one another.
- God wants us to use our gifts and places us in the Body for the edification, growth and benefit of the Body.
- Without love, our gifts are empty and meaningless.
- Love is more important than any gift we may have.
- Our attitude is more important than our gift(s).
- Ultimately our gifts will no longer be needed, but love will last forever.

Romans 12:1-22

- We are to be living sacrifices.
- This is our reasonable (logical) service to God.
- We are not to be like the world.
- We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.
- This will prove what is God's good, acceptable and perfect will for us.
- We are not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, but see ourselves soberly and realistically.
- The Body has many members with different functions.
- We are all members of that Body and members of one another.
- We are to use our different gifts in love for the Body—examples: revealing God's will, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading/administering, showing mercy/compassion.
- Our love should be sincere, unfeigned, not pretending.
- Hate evil and hold to what is good.
- Be affectionate to one another in love.
- Give preference to others first.
- Don't lag in zeal.
- Keep up your spiritual fervor.
- Serve God.
- Rejoice in the hope that we have.
- Be patient in trials.
- Be faithful in prayer.
- Share with God's people.
- Be hospitable.
- Bless those who persecute you.
- Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. (We're all part of the same Body.)
- Be of one mind, in harmony with one another.
- Don't be proud, but associate with the humble.
- Don't be conceited and arrogant.
- Don't repay evil for evil.
- Do what is right in the eyes of others.
- Live in peace with everyone.
- Don't seek or take revenge—that's God's business, not yours.
- Don't let evil overcome you, but instead you are to overcome evil.