

Sermon Outline

Together in Christ, Part 5: "A Community Marked By God's Spirit"

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Robin Boisvert, May 24, 2015

Main Idea: What does it look like to be a community shaped by the gospel and in ongoing fellowship with our triune God? It means being a community that is marked by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Today's sermon reminds us that by faith in Christ, we are a *Spirit-filled* community, in which the *Holy Spirit empowers us* to declare that Jesus is Lord and gives us spiritual gifts for our common good.

Sermon Outline:

1. The Holy Spirit's declaration—Jesus is Lord (12:1-3)
2. The Holy Spirit's gifts—the church is built up (12:4-11)

Key Quotes: "I remember walking to a church one winter evening to preach on the words "he shall glorify me," seeing the building floodlit as I turned a corner, and realizing that this was exactly the illustration my message needed. When floodlighting is well done, the floodlights are so placed that you do not see them; you are not in fact supposed to see where the light is coming from; what you are meant to see is just the building on which the floodlights are trained. The intended effect is to make it visible when otherwise it would not be seen for the darkness, and to maximize its dignity by throwing all its details into relief so that you see it properly. This perfectly illustrates the Spirit's new covenant role. He is, so to speak, the hidden floodlight shining on the Savior." - J.I. Packer

Fellowship Starters

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.
2. Discuss the general context of Paul's letter to the Corinthians. The church had taken a number of good gifts from God (leaders, marriage, singleness, and now spiritual gifts), and emphasized them to the point where they had become issues of division and disunity. In realizing that most of the NT is written to address problems in the church, how might this encourage us to regularly look to the Scriptures for daily help in our own walk and in the life of our church?
3. Re-read verses 4-11. Notice Paul's reference to the Trinity in v4-6. As in the remainder of v7-11, Paul makes use of both the unity ("same" used 3x) and diversity ("Spirit," "Lord" and "God") of God in speaking to the unity ("same Spirit" used 3x) and diversity ("wisdom," "knowledge," "faith," "gifts of healing," "miracles," "tongues," etc.) of the Spiritual gifts. Discuss the implications of this on our life as a church (i.e. we are all united in Christ through One Spirit, but have individual gifts that God has apportioned for the good of the individual and the building up of the body.)
4. Close in prayer thanking God for his Spirit, and the diversity of gifts that he apportions to every local church. Pray for growth in the gifts he has already poured out, and take time to pray for those who desire new gifts to be given to them (1 Cor. 14:1-2). Also pray that, above all, we would love one another as God loves us.

 **Covenant Life Church**

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