

1 CORINTHIANS

gospel formed worship



OVERVIEW FOR PART 5: GOSPEL FORMED WORSHIP

Paul has been addressing the liberties and freedoms God has afforded the Corinthian Christians in regard to their everyday lives in the world. Now, he is going to address how they enjoy and practice their liberty and freedom in the gathering of the Church together.

The dominant theme throughout these four chapters is honor. Paul wants them to consider how they honor God and one another in their gatherings. The gathering of the Church is not meant to be a place where we exalt self and primarily seek opportunities for self-expression or fulfillment. The goal of our gathering together is to glorify God, make much of Jesus and consider how we might encourage or equip others. Of course, as we do this, we will also benefit ourselves since we were made to serve and it is in serving that we also thrive.

In each section Paul wants the Corinthians and us to remember how the Gospel forms our worship. We need to consider how the truths of who God is, what he has done in Christ and who he has created us to be as his Church should shape how we gather together for worship. The gospel of Jesus Christ deeply impacts how we gather together as his people.

PART 5: WEEK THREE - Spiritual Gifts

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The Spirit of God is given to us to lead us to Jesus and to empower us to both proclaim “Jesus is Lord” and submit all of life to Jesus as Lord. In their context, “Caesar is lord” was expected in the Roman empire. Caesar was seen as the god over all. Everything in the empire belonged to and was in submission to Caesar. It all existed for Caesar’s glory and Caesar’s purposes. To say, “Jesus is Lord” was an affront to the powers of the kingdom. You would lose power, position and privilege if you continued to profess “Jesus is Lord”. So, if you were willing to profess and live out “Jesus is Lord”, it was an indicator that you were clearly being led by the Spirit.

We aren’t living in a context where we must worship and submit to an emperor. However, we are regularly being called to make someone or something other than Jesus Lord. Being Spirit-led will lead us to declare and display “Jesus is Lord” over every area of our lives. This includes how we understand and use spiritual gifts.

Paul starts by reminding the Corinthians that spiritual gifts are just that - they are given. We don’t earn spiritual gifts so they certainly aren’t a sign of spiritual maturity. The Spirit gives gifts to each one of us as the Spirit wills.

There are three kinds spiritual gifts given: 1) People Gifts (see 12:28-29; Eph. 4:11); 2) Skill Gifts (Rom. 12:3-8); and 3) Manifestation gifts (12:7-10). People are given to the church to equip the saints. Skills are given to the people to serve the saints. And occasional and situation manifestations of the Spirit are given for a particular need in a particular time. That is what this section is primarily about.

These situational gifts are given for the common good and to display the truth that Jesus is Lord over all things. Every time the Spirit gives a manifestation gift it is a means of displaying how Jesus’ lordship brings a foretaste of the future in a present display of Jesus’ authority and power.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1. We are easily led astray to worship false gods and state in our hearts and through our actions that something or someone other than Jesus is lord. Who or what might that be for you?
2. What is God's role in regard to spiritual gifts?
3. How do these manifestation gifts display Jesus' lordship and the Kingdom of God breaking in?
4. What is your perspective and/or experience of the manifestation gifts?
5. How might your perspective need to change or be redeemed?
6. How might God be leading you as a group to respond to and apply this passage in community? How about on mission?