

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 FOUR - **One Body, Many Parts**

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Every one of us has been placed here by God on purpose with a role to play in the Church and every member is equally important to God's work here. There is no place for spectator or sideline Christians. **We are contributors not consumers.**

There is no place for downplaying your role or gifts. And, there no place for boasting in your role or gifts. We need everyone. **We are better together.**

The Corinthians had imported their previous culture into the church – hierarchy, classism, sexual deviance and now personal autonomy and independence.

Unfortunately, we do the same don't we? The American Dream has become one of self-expression, self-actualization, self-promotion – a culture of radical individualization. Too often we try to squeeze it into our Christianity. Or worse, we put the label of Christianity on it.

And what has it produced? Pride. Arrogance. Division. Isolation. Hatred.

Paul's words are so needed today!

The church is meant to be microcosmic picture of a renewed humanity where there is One Body, with Many Members, and Everyone is Indispensable.

Some of us are prone to think we aren't needed. We belittle our part in serving and equipping the church. Others think too highly of themselves and their gifts which often leads to a sense of not needing anyone else. The truth is we all are needed and we all need one another. If we would truly believe this and live it out, the church would flourish, divisions would end and the world would be truly blessed by the church.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

1. What does this passage teach us about God and one another?
2. How have you tended to view your role in the church?
3. What gift are you to the church (apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, teacher) and what gifts have you been given to serve the church? NOTE: If you haven't yet worked through an APEST assessment, you can do so here: <https://5qcentral.com/product/apest-vocational-assessment/>
4. As a group, take some time to affirm the gifts God has given your group (APEST) and the skill gifts he has given to one another (i.e. John you are a shepherd and you have the gift of administration).
5. Now, take some time to help one another determine how they can best serve and/or equip the group in light of who they are and the gifts they've been given.