
Entering In: (Ice breaker question)

If you could establish one charitable organization, what would it be? Why?

The Context:

Continuing in 1 Corinthians, we look this week again at chapter 12, specifically verses 27-30. As we explore the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to us as parts of the body of Christ, we are reminded of several things:

- These gifts are marks of the “new day” that has dawned through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- The church has been established by God to proclaim and demonstrate the new reality of this new day.
- In this the church is unique. It is “the pillar and foundation of the truth” (1 Tim 3:15). No other group, no other club or organization has been given this mandate and privilege.
- In order to carry out this mandate and privilege, the church has been equipped with God’s Word, the scriptures, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For a long time the evangelical church has relegated the Holy Spirit to a lesser place, and have limited ourselves.
- Gifts are not necessarily talents. A spiritual gift is always given by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the body of Christ.

Going Deeper

1. Apostles are “sent ones.”

What are the two biblical understandings of the term “apostle”?

- *Compare Mark 3:13-19 & Acts 1:21-26 with 1 Thessalonians 2:6 & 2 Cor. 8:23 (in context of vss 16-24)*

What is the difference between an apostle and a disciple? Don’t we read in Matthew 28:19-20 that we are all “sent” by Jesus to “go and make disciples”? How are the apostles (sent ones) different?

2. Prophets are ones who speak revelation.

Prophecy in the New Testament was to be weighed and evaluated, unlike in the Old Testament. In this sense, it is “forthtelling” rather than “foretelling.” God gives an insight or an understanding for a situation or circumstance. It is not something that everyone has to live by.

In light of this description, can you think of a time that God has used you as a “mouthpiece,” speaking a prophetic word to the people of God that needed to be weighed and evaluated?

What are ways that we might make ourselves more prepared to receive this gift?

3. Evangelists are ones who declare the Good News.

Declaring the Good News is everyone’s responsibility. Not everyone has the gift, but everyone has the responsibility (Acts 1:8).

What are some of the reasons you find it difficult to speak about the gospel?

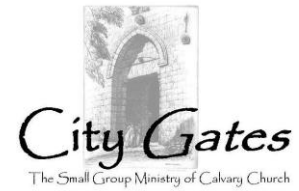
Think about a friend or member of your family who has not accepted Christ at this stage in his or her life. Which characteristics about God do you think would be attractive to him or her? What response is this person making to Christ? Why do you believe he or she is responding that way?

City Gates Discussion Guide

Considering the Parts, 1 Corinthians 12:27-30

Pastor Glenn Blossom

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What are some of the obstacles today that stand in the way of people believing in Jesus and following him? How can they be removed?

Using language that would not normally be considered as religious, develop a list of synonyms and expressions that convey the biblical meaning of “being born again” and “being reconciled with God.” Use analogies or metaphors. Complete the statement, “To me, the good news of the Bible is.....”