

## **1 Corinthians: Harmony in Diversity**

### **Daily Bible Study Guide**

#### **Week 5 (#5 of 7) - I Corinthians 11:2 thru 12:31**

*Each time before you read & study, take a moment to ask God to speak to you through the Word and the Holy Spirit.*

#### **Monday: Read 1 Corinthians 11:2 - 16**

We all have societal norms we follow - we don't pay a large grocery bill with coins or keep windows open when the air conditioning is on. Isn't it interesting that we don't expect women to wear hats in church anymore, but do expect men to take theirs off? Though Paul writes from a male dominated perspective, he also seems to suggest the equal importance of both genders.

1. What is the issue Paul was addressing in this context and for that time?
2. Compare vs. 7-10 with vs. 11-12. Do you see contradiction here or unity in thought? How is vs. 12b the culminating idea?
3. Have you ever observed a conflict in the churches you attended about what was appropriate or not in worship?

#### **Tuesday: Read 1 Corinthians 11:17 - 34**

It seems from early days whenever the church met they included a meal - as Jesus experienced with his disciples at the last supper. Now we only include bread and drink in communion (and an occasional potluck). But in those days the rich who didn't have to work would arrive early to worship, consume most of the food and wine and not leave much for the working poor who couldn't arrive until later. And the early comers would also become drunk.

Do the words of these verses sound familiar? Many lines of communion liturgy come directly from them.

1. What divisions can you name among Christians now?
2. What can you tell about the meaning and importance of The Lord's Supper (Communion) from these words?

#### **Wednesday: Read 1 Corinthians 12:1 - 11**

The other Bible verses that also list spiritual gifts are:

Romans 12: 3 - 8 and Ephesians 4:11 - 13. Read these verses also.

1. According to what Paul says here in I Corinthians, what is the point of spiritual gifts?
2. Paul emphasizes that the source of spiritual gifts is the Spirit. What then is he implying is not the source, and why is that important?
3. Have you ever taken a spiritual gifts inventory? If so, which gifts do you believe God has given you? If not, there is a free inventory at <https://www.umediscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en> - take this inventory to find out and let Pastor Susan know what your gifts are :)

#### **Thursday: Read 1 Corinthians 12:12 - 31**

"We speak of being a church *member* without thinking about where the word comes from. The word *member* owes its place in Christian thinking and speaking largely to 1 Corinthians 12:12 - 20 where the word means *limb* or *organ*. We might expect Paul to say in 12:12 "as the body is one, and has many members... so also *is the church*."

Instead Paul writes, "so also *is the Messiah*." N. T. Wright

1. How does thinking of other Christians as members of Christ himself affect the way you see him?
2. What sorts of "body parts" in the church do Christians tend to regard as more important than others?
3. What body part do you resonate with as you think about your activity and service at Corona UMC and beyond?

**Friday: Take a day off! You deserve it! Well done!**