



Preparation Plan

1 Corinthians 12:1-3 • Christ Church • January 6, 2019

Big Idea: Unity in church life with Holy Spirit gifting requires consistent preparation.

Christ Church prepares for unity if I...

1. Engage the historical Holy Spirit concern (1).
2. Embrace the personal Holy Spirit context (1-2).
3. Elevate the universal Holy Spirit conclusion (3).

Group Discussion

Without looking at your Bible, what do you know or not know about what's to come in chapters 12-14?

How does it make you feel to know that you, in your power alone, are unable to affect lasting, spiritual change in yourself and in others? How does it make you feel to know that you have the Holy Spirit who helps and empowers you to be spiritually transformed and to help others toward the same?

How should our study of 1 Corinthians up to this point inform the way that we engage with the controversial issues found in the chapters to come?

What are potential dangers of being "uninformed" about spiritual gifts?

If your experience of "the Holy Spirit" leads you away from exalting Jesus as Lord, it's not an experience of the one true Spirit of God. Why is this the case? How does John 16:14 relate to this question?

J.I. Packer: "The essence of the Holy Spirit's ministry is, at this or any time in the Christian era, to mediate the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ." In other words, the Spirit is sent to make Christ real to people and to show us who he really is in his glory so that we come to love him and trust him and obey him and show him to the world.

Why is it so important that we be characterized by humility as we make our way through this study of the Holy Spirit's gifting?

Breakout Discussion

How are you using your spiritual gifts to contribute to the building up of the body?

When addressing controversial issues, which of the "rules of engagement" do you need to be most careful to follow?

"Rules of engagement" from the sermon: (1) More humble, less harsh; (2) More deference, less defensive; (3) More clarity, less confusion; (4) More listening, less lobbying.

How does your understanding of and relationship with the Holy Spirit need to grow?

How does your affirmation that "Jesus is Lord" need to inform and affect the way you're living this week?

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 12:3 "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Ephesians 4:15 "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."

1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 5:5 "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"

James 1:19-20 "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Prayer Points

- Thank the Holy Spirit for leading you to Christ as Lord.
- Pray for humility and for a mind that thinks "with sober judgment" (Romans 12:3).
- Ask God to show you what you don't know and teach you what you need to learn as we embark on these next three chapters in 1 Corinthians.
- Pray for a greater readiness and eagerness to use your Spirit-given gifts to build up the body of Christ.