



# Identical Diversity

1 Corinthians 12:4–11 • Christ Church • January 13, 2019

**Big Idea:** Identical diversity is the bedrock of radical, genuine, local church unity.

Identical diversity at Christ Church:

1. My presentation is diverse, but our power is identical (4–6).
2. My proof is diverse, but our purpose is identical (7).
3. My proportion is diverse, but our provider is identical (8–11).

## Group Discussion

Why is it important to remember that, though unique and various, our spiritual gifts come from “the same God”?

*Since gifts are apportioned by “the same God” they all share the same purpose, they’re perfectly distributed according to his will, and they’re all tethered to his word.*

How do verses 4–6 help protect us from feelings of superiority/inferiority in the church?

What are some misuses of spiritual gifting that might be avoided by keeping the express purpose of spiritual gifting (“the common good”) in focus?

Is there such a thing as a Christian who has no spiritual gift? How might you encourage someone who’s finding it hard to believe he or she is gifted by the Spirit?

*You might remind them of the simple truth that God’s Spirit indwells every believer (1 Cor. 12:28) and that he gifts every believer (verse 11 says that the Holy Spirit “apportions to each one individually as he wills;” it doesn’t say he apportions to some as he wills). You might also encourage this believer by sharing with them how you’ve seen the Spirit’s gifting in them. Finally, there may be cases when it’s appropriate to explore with them how they might be quenching the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19).*

Can you think of anyone in your life who clearly possesses one of the spiritual gifts? How do you see God using that gift for “the common good”?

## Related Passages

**1 Corinthians 14:12** "So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church."

**Ephesians 4:11–12** "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ"

**1 Peter 4:10–11** "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

## Prayer Points

- Thank God for the precious gift of the Holy Spirit who indwells, empowers, and gifts every believer. Praise him for the way he uniquely gifts his people.
- Pray for a increasing sense of how God has gifted you, and a clear awareness of how that gifting can be exercised for the good of the church.
- Pray for much fruit to be borne in the church and in the world from the exercise of your unique spiritual gifts.

## Breakout Discussion

Small groups are currently discussing *Humility* by C.J. Mahaney during the breakout group discussion time.

[Leader Guide for Intro, Chs. 1–2](#)

[Leader Guide for Chs. 3–4](#)

[Leader Guide for Chs. 5–6](#)

[Leader Guide for Chs. 7–8](#)

[Leader Guide for Chs. 9–10](#)

[Leader Guide for Chs. 11–12](#)