

That God may be glorified

Next week, we will back in the gospel of John.

Our series on spiritual gifts will finish today.

When we last were in John, we were at the end of chapter 17.

To be precise, John 17:22-23

John 17:22-23

22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

/“That they may be perfected in unity.”\

I spent the past week working on a recap of spiritual gifts. It was set to be a review of the gifts to the body of Christ.

I was going to go over the whole list one more time.

SO -you know me! – I had tables and circles, ways to tell if you have a gift, gifts and their burdens, Bible people who had each gift....stuff like that. A fire hose of material, “flooding the zone”.

I was drowning. I knew that if were drowning, you’d end up drowning.

So, in frustration, I stopped, threw my eyes to heaven, and said “help”!

Then I took a nap.

When I woke from the nap, I knew I would be taking a totally different approach.

The Lord took me back to simplicity. The simplicity of devotion to Christ.

So we turn to Jesus Christ’s words as recorded by John.

John 13:34-35

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

/Ultimately, spiritual gifts are all about love.\

The love that Christ has for us.

And the love that the Father has for us.

John 17:22-23

*22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be **perfected in unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*

“That they may be perfected in unity.”

/How are we perfected in unity?\

That question took us on a journey that began last April. It now ends with this subject of spiritual gifts.

/The point is this: as wonderful and exciting as spiritual gifts are, they are a means to an end.\

/The end is our being perfected in unity,\ to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

/Using our gifts to serve one another - that's how we obey Christ's command to love one another as He has loved us.\

1 Cor 12:7

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

/Everything else that we learned about the spiritual gifts can be summed up in these two words: unity, and love.\

Eph 4:1-7

*4 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another **in love**, 3 **being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Eph 4:11-16

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,.... Why?

*12 for the equipping of the saints for **the work of service**, to **the building up of the body of Christ**; 13 until we all attain to **the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

*14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth **in love**, we are to **grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ**, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

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What's the burden of a pastor for his congregation, if not love?

What's the burden of the evangelist - is it not love for the lost?

I could go on, but whether it's the helper or the servant or the one who shows mercy, they all have a burden, and the burden is always - love.

1 Cor 13:1-3

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

/Unity and love. But there is yet one thing greater still.\

1 Peter 4:8-11

8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

NASU

Keep fervent in your love for one another.

Employ your gift in serving one another.

SO THAT. So that – what?

In all things God may be glorified.

/So that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ\

To whom – Jesus Christ – belongs the glory and the dominion forever and ever.

And there it is. The result.

/When we use our spiritual gifts in serving one another. God is glorified through Jesus Christ.\

Amen.