

“KOINONIA AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS: PART III”
EPHESIANS 4:1-16
MARCH 14, 2010

Questions for Study & Reflection

1. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts (see 1 Cor 12:7)?

2. If every spiritual gift is given for the good of the whole church, why did Paul highlight the hierarchy of gifts in 1 Cor 12:28-30?

3. Pastor Charlie said that the main lesson of 1 Cor 13:1-3 is that all spiritual gifts derive their value from love, and then he compared love to an engine in a car or a heart in a body. Can you think of other metaphors or illustrations to help us understand the place of love in the exercise of the gifts?

4. Pastor Charlie suggested that the seventh trait of love, that “it does not seek the things of itself” (v 5), is the key to understanding all the other traits. Do you see how this is so? Explain your answer.

5. Take some time and prayerfully insert your name wherever the word “love” appears in 1 Cor 13:4-7. Ask God to help you see yourself as he sees you. Then do the same with the word “God” and ask him to help you see how his grace is at work in your life. Do you see how the design of God in Christ is to mold you into his image so that the pattern of your life matches the pattern of love?

6. Why does Paul highlight the eternity of love in 1 Cor 13:8-12 (see Math 6:19-21)?

7. Why does Paul conclude in 1 Cor 13:13 that love is the highest gift of all and how does this relate to 12:7?