

Sunday State of Mind
1 Corinthians 14:26-40
Small Group Guide

Opening Icebreaker Question:

- What is the funniest event that has happened to you or your family while getting ready for or driving to church?

REVIEW: This week, we're wrapping up our series called "Organic." The idea of the term *organic* is that it has to do with life, living things. As we've looked at 1 Corinthians 11-14 over the last few weeks, what big ideas have stuck in your mind? (Below are the main ideas that we've covered, if you need prompts).

- That each one of us is a vital part of a living organism, the church body, and that living body is the primary vessel through which God is carrying out his work.
- We've seen that because Jesus gave up his body to form us into a body, regard for one another is more important than our exercise of personal freedoms or preferences.
- We've seen that true Christian spirituality means exercising your gifts from the Holy Spirit in a way that lifts up the name of Jesus and builds up others in the church body.
- We've seen that the most important thing about how we live with one another is that we are characterized by love.
- We've seen that the Holy Spirit is the power source that we need for life and for the work that God has given to us.

Today we're looking at the last passage in this section of 1 Corinthians—the second half of chapter 14. We'll see two crucial considerations that should shape the way we approach every church gathering.

READ VERSES 26-31

1. From these verses, what is the first main consideration for how we should approach a church gathering? (Leaders: We come expecting to use our gifts to build up others!)
2. Practically, what would it look like to go to church with the intention of building up others? How does that differ from your current mindset?
3. In verse 26, Paul gives us a sampling of four spiritual gifts: music, teaching, prophecy ("a revelation") and tongues/interpretation. The first two are the more natural, "service" gifts, whereas the last two are the more "supernatural," or "revelatory" gifts. *Why do you think Paul gave examples of each type? What does that mean for us today?*
4. We've talked the last few weeks about asking the Spirit to give us whatever gifts he wants us to have to build up other people. *Can you commit to asking God first to put on your heart what gift he would like you to have (see Addendum 1), then ask for the Spirit to grant you that gift?*

READ VERSES 32-33a and 36-40 (For the “challenging” verses of 34-35, we refer you to Pastor Josh’s handout he made available this past Sunday. Feel free to discuss it further in your small groups).

4. From these verses, what seemed to be the problem in the worship service in the Corinthian church?
5. What does Paul say is the solution to this problem?
6. In the worship service, one person’s order may be another person’s constriction. And, one person’s freedom may be chaos to another. We already heard from Paul that he discourages the gift of tongues in a public service, but what are other aspects that to you would constitute order or disorder in a church service?
7. In Pastor Josh’s sermon, he said that the character of your worship reflects the character of your God. If that is true, what would we say about your God based on the way that you worship?
8. What about the way that you approach the sermon—do you come anticipating that God will speak to you and to his gathered body?
9. When you go to your small group, what does your approach to your time together say about the character of God? Do you come to this time anticipating God’s Spirit to move among your group? To use you to encourage the others there?
10. Leaders: This exercise is an inventory of one’s spiritual gifts, which takes into consideration the input of the other group members. You can choose to send this out to everyone ahead of time, or... bring this up at the small group and have members think about each other’s gift for a week and then share it next week, or... use your own method.

Each person writes their name at the top of a blank piece of paper and passes it to the person on their left. Using Addendum 1, which lists short descriptions of 27 spiritual gifts¹, try to write down 1 to 3 spiritual gifts under this person’s name.

When done, pass the paper to the left until each of you has had a chance to suggest a couple of spiritual gifts for every other person in the group. Now, don’t worry about being “right”; this is just a way for each person to collect the perceptions of everyone else in the group.

Optional: When all the papers have gone around, each person take turns reading them aloud and when finished, simply say “thank you.”

11. Prayer: Pray that God will show each of us a) what spiritual gifts the Spirit desires to give us or has given us and b) how we should use these in the church to build up others and honor God’s name.

¹ This list of 27 spiritual gifts are the ones best supported from Scripture, but since no passage in Scripture thoroughly lists all of the gifts, there are probably others besides these 27.

Addendum 1 – Spiritual Gifts²

Since there is no comprehensive list of spiritual gifts in Scripture, the following list is our best guess, but is certainly not exhaustive. Groupings are listed for convenience and are not necessarily biblically supported. These are not the same as secular skills, but can overlap with them. These gifts are Spirit-given and Spirit-driven abilities that build up God’s church and demonstrate Christ to the world.

Note: The proper practice of these gifts is outlined in 1 Corinthians 12-14, which expresses that these gifts are used a) with humility, b) in love, c) to build up the church instead of oneself, and d) to honor God instead of oneself, e) with the idea that there is great unity within a diversity of gifts and diversity of people using their gifts.

Those with the more public gifts such as leadership and teaching, as well as those with the more supernatural gifts such as healing or word of knowledge, should have the humility to know where their gifts are from and how they are just one part of the body. Conversely, those with the more “common” and “invisible” gifts such as service and mercy should be encouraged as to how important and indispensable their gifts are to the Body of Christ.

Leadership Gifts:

Administration/Guidance – ability to organize people, develop plans, institute methodologies, and/or provide guidance to accomplish a divine purpose. *Lk 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Cor 12:28; Tit 1:5.*

Apostle – ability to start new ministries, such as churches, non-profits, missions, homeless ministries, etc. *1 Cor 12:28; Eph 2:20; 4:11.*

Evangelism/Evangelist – ability to readily share the gospel effectively and creatively such that others put their faith in Christ or are moved closer to this decision. *Acts 8:5-6, 26-40; Eph 4:11-14; 2 Tim 4:5.*

Leadership – ability to discern, set, and communicate God’s vision and purpose in such a way that the Body wants to follow. Good character is often associated with good leaders. *Lk 9:51; Acts 6:1-7; 15:7-11; Rom 12:8; 1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:17.*

Missionary – ability to minister and relate to others cross culturally. *Acts 8:4; 13:1-4; 22:21; Rom 10:15; 1 Cor 9:19-23.*

Pastor/Shepherd – ability and desire to assume long-term responsibility for the welfare of a group of Believers. *Eph 4:11-14; 1 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Pet 5:1-4.*

Communication Gifts:

Exhortation – ability to comfort, console, encourage, counsel and, when needed, confront other members of the Body. *Lk 3:16-18; Ac 11:23; 14:22; Rom 12:8; 1 Tim 4:12; 5:1; Heb 10:25.*

Teaching – ability to communicate God’s truth and information in such a way that others learn about, grow in, and relate better to Christ. *Mat 7:28-29; 28:19-20; Acts 15:32; Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12:10, 28; Eph 4:11-14.*

Prophecy – ability to give a direct message from God to encourage or confront a person or the Body. *Luke 7:26; Acts 15:32; 21:9-11; Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12:10, 28; Eph 4:11-14*

Musical Worship – ability to play, sing or lead music or another art (e.g., dance), which inspires others to worship God. *1 Corinthians 14:26, Colossians 3:16, 2 Chronicles 5:12-13, 1 Samuel 16:14-23.*

² Gift definitions adapted from *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow* by C. Peter Wagner, *Jesus on Leadership: Becoming a Servant Leader* by C. Gene Wilkes, and Calvary Baptist Church, Documents, [Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts](#). *Gifted2Serve* ©2001, Andrew P. Kulp, and Pastor Josh Moody’s sermons, 5/8/16, 5/15/16, 5/22/16, and 5/29/16.

Practical Gifts:

- Celibacy – ability to voluntarily be single and sexually pure without regret, which provides one the ability to serve in God’s kingdom in ways they otherwise might not. *1 Cor 7:1-9; Mat 19:10-12.*
- Craftsmanship/Artist – ability to creatively design and/or construct items that are used practically for God’s ministry or ability to communicate God’s truth via artistic expression. *Ex 28:3-4; Ex 31:1-11; Ex 35:30-35.*
- Faith – ability to extraordinarily trust God’s will and purposes. *Acts 11:22-24; 27:21-25; Rom 4:18-21; 1 Cor 12:9; Heb 11.*
- Giving – ability to give material resources radically and cheerfully. *Rom 12:8; 1 Cor 13:3; 2 Cor 8:1-7; 9:2-8; Phlp 4:14-19.*
- Helps – ability and desire to invest talents in the lives and ministries of others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts. *Mrk 15:40-41; Lke 8:2-3; Acts 9:36; Rom 16:1-2; 1 Cor 12:28; 2 Tim 1:16-18.*
- Hospitality – ability to provide an open house and express a warm welcome to visitors. *Acts 16:14-15; Rom 12:9-13; Heb 13:1-2; 1Pet 4:9.*
- Intercession – desire and ability to pray regularly and extensively for God’s work and His people. *Acts 12:12; Col 1:9-12; 4:12-13; 1 Tim 2:1-2; Jam 5:14-16.*
- Mercy – ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for the disadvantaged and suffering that translates into practical service. *Mat 20:29-34; 25:24-40; Mrk 9:41; Lke 10:33-35; Acts 11:28-30; 16:33-34; Rom 12:8; Jde 22-23.*
- Service – ability to cheerfully and effectively do practical and routine tasks that aid a ministry and/or the church. *Acts 6:1-7; Rom 12:6-7; Gal 6:2; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14.*
- Voluntary Poverty – ability to live on a poverty level in order to serve God more effectively. *Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-27; 1 Cor 13:1-3; 2 Cor 8:9.*

Knowledge Gifts:

- Discerning of Spirits – ability to know whether behavior or attitudes have a divine, human, or satanic source. Often used to discern prophecy.
- Word of Knowledge – ability to receive divinely given information. Often applied to privately reveal another’s devastating sin or to reveal an ailment God intends to heal. *1 Cor 12:8*
- Word of Wisdom – ability to apply truth to everyday life in general and also receiving a specific insight from God for a particular individual or church issue. *Prov 4:5-8; Acts 6:3, 10; 15:13-20; 20:20-21; Rom 12:17; 1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11-14; Col 1:28.*

Sign/Miraculous Gifts:

- Healing – ability to apply God’s physical, spiritual, or emotional healing power to people. *Acts 3:1-10; 5:12-16; 1 Cor 12:9.*
- Miracles – ability to apply God’s supernatural power to alter natural events. *Acts 9:36-42; 19:11-20; 20:7-12; Rom 15:17-19; 1 Cor 1:22-25; 12:10, 28; 2 Cor 12:12.*
- Tongues – ability to speak a message from God in an angelic or foreign language. In the public setting, this requires interpretation. *Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-46; 19:1-7; Rom 8:26-27; 1 Cor 12:10, 28; 13:1; ch 14.*
- Interpretation of Tongues – ability to interpret in the Body’s native language the gift of tongues. *1 Cor 12:10-30; 14:13-17, 26-28.*