

Home group discussion questions: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

How do we discover our spiritual gifts? How essential is the local church's recognition of them?

'We must not allow fear of wrong or superficial experiences to keep us from the birthright of the church from Pentecost onwards' (p. 212). Is such fear a problem for you? How may it be overcome?

How important is the picture of the church as the body of Christ? Paul mentions a number of practical consequences of this picture such as mutual dependence (vv. 14–20), unity (v. 25) and sympathy with one another (v. 26). How should we give these practical consequences the emphasis they deserve?

Why do we need one another in the body of Christ (pp. 213f.)? How is this need expressed in practice?

Why does diversity in the body tend to be stifled (pp. 214f.)? How can we guard against this?

How should Christians care for one another (pp. 215f.)? What is your experience of receiving and giving such ministry?

What is the difference between 'individuality' and 'individualism' (p. 216)? Why is this distinction so important?

What is distinctive about teachers, helpers and administrators (pp. 219ff.)? What happens where the ministry of each is undervalued?

How would you respond to someone who suggested that the 'way of love' is set out as an alternative to spiritual gifts (pp. 223f.)?