

THE GIFTS & FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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April 15, 2026

1 Cor 12:27-31



QUESTION 4



How can unity be maintain despite differences in gifts. How does the distribution of different gifts emphasize the interdependence of Christians within the body of Christ?



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UNITY THROUGH COMMON SOURCE



- **One Spirit gives all gifts:** "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them" (1 Corinthians 12:4).
- **Common purpose unites:** All gifts are given for the "common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7).
- **Shared identity in Christ:** All believers are members of the same body, baptized in the same Spirit.



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UNITY THROUGH COMMON SOURCE



- **One head, many members:** Christ is the head; all members are equally connected to Him.
- **Doctrinal unity possible:** Recognition of a common Spirit and purpose prevents fragmentation.



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INTERDEPENDENCE EMPHASIZED



- **Weaker parts are indispensable:** The parts that seem less important are actually essential to the body.
- **Less honorable parts receive greater honor:** Hidden ministries are treated with special care and attention.
- **No member is self-sufficient:** Because gifts are distributed individually, no one is independent.



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INTERDEPENDENCE EMPHASIZED



- **Mutual reliance is structural:** The church is designed so that believers must need one another.
- **Complementary gifts create wholeness:** Each person's limitations are another's opportunity to serve.



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SHARED SUFFERING AND JOY



- **When one part suffers, all suffer:** The body experiences pain collectively, not individually.
- **When one part is honored, all rejoice:** Success and celebration are shared by the entire community.
- **Empathy is built into the system:** The interconnected nature of the body fosters genuine compassion.



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SHARED SUFFERING AND JOY



- **Corporate identity supersedes individual identity:** We are first members of the body, then individuals.
- **Solidarity in struggle and triumph:** The church experiences life together, not in isolation.



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MAINTAINING UNITY IN PRACTICE



- **Love governs all gifts**— The "most excellent way" (1 Corinthians 13) directs how gifts are used.
- **Gifts exercised in love build unity**— When diverse gifts are motivated by love, the body is strengthened.
- **Humility prevents division:** Recognizing our dependence on others' gifts cultivates humility.



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MAINTAINING UNITY IN PRACTICE



- **Mutual appreciation required:** Each member must value and honor the gifts of others.
- **Collaborative ministry is non-negotiable:** No one can accomplish God's mission alone.



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QUESTION 5



Understanding the Gift of Tongues



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PERSONAL PRAYER LANGUAGE GLOSSOLALIA



- **Spoken directly to God, not to men (1 Cor 14:2)**
- **Used for personal edification and growth (1 Cor 14:4)**
- **The spirit prays, mind may not understand (1 Cor 14:14)**
- **Often called “praying in the Spirit” (Jude 1:20)**



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PUBLIC TONGUES WITH INTERPRETATION XENOLALIA



- **Spoken aloud in a church gathering (1 Cor 14:27)**
- **Must be accompanied by interpretation (1 Cor 14:27-28)**
- **When interpreted, functions like prophecy (1 Cor 14:5)**
- **Purpose is to edify the entire church (1 Cor 14:26)**



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HUMAN LANGUAGES (XENOGLOSSIA)



- **Speaking in unlearned human languages (Acts 2:4)**
- **Heard by foreigners in native tongues (Acts 2:8)**
- **Serves as a sign to unbelievers (1 Cor 14:22)**
- **Used by God for rapid evangelism (Acts 2:11)**



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FINALLY

- **Use Your Gift: Don't Hide It;** *Neglect not the gift that is in thee...*" (1 Timothy 4:14)
- **Faithfulness Matters More Than Size of the Gift:** *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*" (1 Corinthians 4:2)



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FINALLY

- **Your View of God Affects How You Use Your Gift:**
The wicked servant acted out of fear and a wrong understanding of his master.
- Someone may feel led to pray for healing but hesitates, fearing failure; this limits the operation of the gift.



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FINALLY

- **Gifts Are Given to Produce Kingdom Impact:** *"The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."* (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- **Accountability Is Coming:** he master returned and required an account; this reflects spiritual responsibility.
- *"Every one of us shall give account of himself to God."* (Romans 14:12)



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