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Watch this video for an introduction to 1 Corinthians:

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If you missed the first Messed Up message go to [jacobswellec.org](http://jacobswellec.org) and follow the message resources tab and watch week one.

## Read all of 1 Corinthians Chapter 12. (we are skipping ahead this week)

### Study Questions

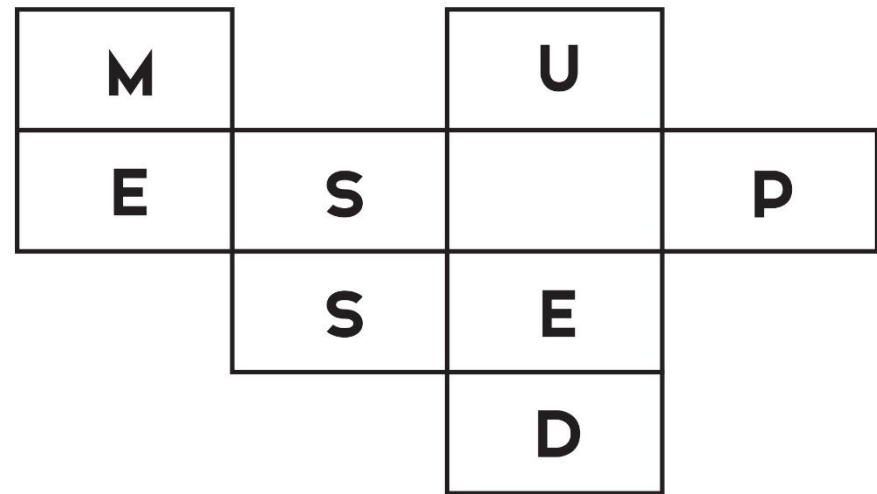
1. For the Corinthian believers, Paul was concerned they created a hierarchy of giftedness. He was concerned they were attaching importance and value to gifts in order to exclude people in the church instead of using their gifts for the church as a whole. In **1 Corinthians 12:4-6**. What point is Paul trying to help the Corinthians to understand? Why is this important for the Corinthians as well as us today?
2. Paul urges the Corinthians to see their interdependence. He wants them to live with mutuality and shared vision, using their gifts for the edification of all. In **1 Corinthians 12:7** he states, "*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*" Every member of the body of Christ has been given spiritual gifts as evidence of the Spirit at work in their lives. All the gifts are intended to build up the members of the church. Sadly, the Corinthian's were using their gifts for selfish advantage. Share some examples of how we can use our gifts for selfish gain.
3. If people feel their gifts are superior and more important than other people's gifts, how does this create conflict and disunity in the church? How does Paul's example of parts of the human body help clarify this point?
4. Paul says in **1 Corinthians 12:26** "*If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*" Why is this point incredibly important for the Corinthians to understand? Why is this point incredibly important for us to understand today?

### Prayer of Saint Francis:

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy; Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

### Personal Reflection

1. Have you taken a Spiritual Gifts assessment? If you have, how are you allowing God to work through how He has uniquely gifted and created you? If you haven't, what is keeping you from taking this step? At Jacob's Well we have Discover You. Mark your calendar for Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the next Spiritual Gifts class. If you would like more information on the class, or to take a step into serve, please contact Laura Garry at [lgarry@jacobswellchurch.church](mailto:lgarry@jacobswellchurch.church).
2. When we read the Bible, we are not trying to get God to agree with our ideas. We are not trying to convince Him that our position is right. We are reading the Bible to draw out the truth God put there, and then how to put the truth into action in our life by the power of His Holy Spirit at work in us. Journal about what God is speaking to you through the message and devotions this week. Write out your thoughts and prayers. Look for the timeless truths in the verses of 1 Corinthians 12. Ask yourself these questions:
  - a. How do I look in the mirror of this chapter?
  - b. What am I seeing in the light of these truths?
  - c. How does this chapter apply to my life right now?
  - d. What does God want me to do about it?
  - e. How can I put it into practice?
  - f. What do I need to think or feel differently about?
  - g. What is God asking me to do or stop doing, to believe or stop believing?
  - h. How does He want me to live from now on?
3. The church does not function on all cylinders when people are disengaged and not sharing the gifts God has given them. It takes all of us working together. Our church is about to go into a season in which this truth is critically important. Our new building will not happen unless all of us are working together. Every person plays an important part. Those in construction are needed, but those who can clean, work in the kitchen, make phone calls, drive to the airport, host a person or two from Builders for Christ, are needed too. How will you participate in Builders for Christ? What is God asking of you? Pray and ask Him His will for you.
4. Continue to pray the prayer of Saint Francis throughout our study of 1 Corinthians.



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