

(1st Corinthians 12:1-7)
“Don’t Be Ignorant”

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK...

- We closed by talking about **disorder** & **order** at the Communion table.
 - We reviewed **why** Christ died...
 - AND **what** He did for us individually in His death.
 - Freeing us from the **power & penalty** of sin!

WE’VE BEEN...

- *Ransomed, cleansed, and born again.*

WE DISCOVERED A GRACE THAT IS PERSONAL.

- Because Jesus calls us to come and receive from Him.
 - BUT not to do it in an **unworthy manner**.
 - In a manner that **mocks** the work of Christ...
 - Thru pollution OR insincerity.

AND THE FINAL LESSON...

- Before we transition into today’s study:
 - *Communion* can be a very sad event...
 - If the emphases is placed on the **process** of Jesus’ death...
 - Rather than the **purpose** of Jesus’ death.

~ STUDY ~

ALRIGHT...

- As we continue learning how to **“apply Christianity”**
 - We pivot from the **Corrective** phase of this letter...
 - Into the **constructive** phase.
- We come to a topic that there’s much ignorance about.
 - Yet people are fascinated by it – *spiritual gifts*.

SO... I’ve titled today’s message: ***“Don’t Be Ignorant”***

IDEA #1 – DON’T AVOID THESE (vv.1-3)

IN ANCIENT GREECE...

- The people who made **prophecies** were called *“oracles”*

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“Don’t Be Ignorant”

- AND they would channel the message of the gods.

THE PRACTICE WAS KNOWN AS...

- ***Theia Mania* (Divine Madness).**

The Greeks did NOT view altered states of consciousness as pathological.

- Instead, they recognized **prophecies** as a sacred form of madness.

SO...

- They would prophesy ecstatically...
 - It was a wild display of emotions & sometimes trances.

THERE WAS EVEN...

- A mystical experience called “ecstasy”
 - Which was a total loss of self-control of one’s body.

NOW...

- Into this background Paul speaks with clarity and order.

BECAUSE...

- Biblically the new believers needed to know...
 - That a loss of control is not evidence of the Holy Spirit.

(v.1) “*gifts*”

- Is in *italics* and is NOT in the original text.
 - Paul actually said... “Now concerning spirituals”

THEN... “*I don’t want you to be ignorant*” (Greek = *ag-no-eh’-o*)

- i. Not to know because of a **lack** of information
- ii. Or something you chose to **avoid** and **ignore**

YOU KNOW... I FIND...

- That ignorance is **often the posture** people take...
 - When it comes to **Spiritual gifts!**

IT SEEMS THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH...

- Have taken a position of closing their eyes to spiritual things.

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- Exactly what Paul says NOT to do.

WHATEVER POSITION...

- You eventually take on spiritual gifts. Please know that avoiding the
 - Subject is not an option Paul gives us.

PAUL **DOESN’T** WANT THE CHURCH...

- To confuse counterfeit pagan religious practices...
 - With what the God of heaven offers.

THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE...

- Becomes super important!
 - We NEED an accurate understanding
 - To **dispel the myths** & **abuse** in this area.

IDEA #2 – THE GIFTS ARE FOR MINISTRY (vv.4-7)

- Let’s pull back for a moment...
 - And capture the larger picture.

Chapters 12–14 are one continuous argument just like we saw in (chp. 8-10).

NOW THE TOPIC IS DIFFERENT...

- But the argument is about *spiritual gifts*:
 - Chapter 12 – Explains the gifts.
 - Chapter 13 – Governs the gifts with love.
 - Chapter 14 – Regulates the gifts when the church gathers.

IN (v.7) Paul zeros in with a key-word:

Manifestation...

“The visible display or expression of the Holy Spirit working thru a believer”

AND TAKE NOTE OF THIS CHRISTIAN...

- *“The Spirit is given to each one...”*

MEANING...

- Every single Christian receives a way for the Holy Spirit...

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- To show His work thru us.
 - No believer is left out!!!

“For the profit of all”

- Each believer is gifted to help build up and benefit...
 - The church community.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO YOU PERSONALLY?

- It means you’re NOT just a passive recipient...
 - Who shows up to consume.
- Your Redeemer wants you to know...
 - That you’re a vital part of his plan.
- He’s gifted you and He wants you in the game.

*Humor – old song by John Fogerty in 1985 – **Centerfield**...

- *“Put me in coach I’m ready to play today.”*

Christianity was never intended to be a spectator sport.

- You bring something special to the team.

~ IN CLOSING ~

NEXT TIME...

- We will look at the different spiritual gifts...
 - To help us understand how God has gifted His church—
 - And how He may be working through you.

THIS IS AN EXCITING TOPIC...

- So be sure to plan ahead and don’t miss it.

Let’s pray.