

2. **Verses 15 and 16** metaphorically portray jealousy among the members of the church body over God's distribution of spiritual gifts. How does this illustration still relate to the church body today? Why do you think some Christians become jealous over the gifting of others? What should our attitude be when it comes to spiritual giftedness?

3. If an eye were an entity all by itself, "*a being*" separate from the rest of the human body as described hypothetically in **verse 17**, how would lose its effectiveness? How does this illustration relate to effective ministry within the local church today? Is there any room for lone rangers in the church of Christ? Why is a team effort always better than an individual effort?

4. According to **verse 18**, who is it that sovereignly assigns spiritual gifts to every member of the church body? Does the Bible describe God as pleased, or displeased, with His distribution of spiritual gifts to individual believers (**vs. 18**)? If this is so, how do you think God feels when we don't use those spiritual gifts for His glory?

5. Describe how individual parts of the body are interdependent upon one another (**vv. 20-21**). How does this illustration relate to the local church today?

6. What parts of the human body seem "*weaker,*" but are absolutely required for survival (**vs. 22**)? Are the internal organs of the body just as important, or even more important than the external limbs when it comes to survival? Name a part of your body that you can't live without? What are some behind the scenes ministries that are vital to the survival of the body of Christ?

7. How do we demonstrate “*greater modesty*” today with those parts of our bodies that are considered unpresentable (**vs. 23**)? Why is it important for Christians to dress modestly; not extravagantly or provocatively? (See **Matt. 5:27-28; 1 Tim. 2:9-10**)

8. According to **verses 24 and 25**, did God design the church body with the intent of giving special privileges to those individuals with greater spiritual gifts? Why or why not? Why is it wrong to treat one believer as better than another? How should we treat each member of the body of Christ? (See **Phil. 2:3-4**)

9. Why is the person with “*a fever*” a good illustration of **verse 26a**? How does the human body work together when it gets a fever to make the body well again? How should the rest of the church react when a member of the body of Christ is hurting? What are some ways you can more effectively help hurting people within the church family?

10. There seems to be a lot of competition in the body of Christ these days for numbers. According to **verse 26**, how should Christians react when something good happens to another believer or to another Bible believing church? Do you? Why do you think we don’t see more Christians “*rejoicing*” and “*celebrating*” over the ministry successes of others?

Part III: Paul brings up several more offices and spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:27-31)

1. In **verse 27**, Paul identified the Corinthian believers as the body of Christ, but also stressed their importance as individuals. What offices and spiritual gifts are listed in **verse 28**? What is the function of each? What gift had the church of Corinth apparently been placing too high of an emphasis on? (See **1 Cor. 14:18-19**) Where did Paul place this particular gift on his list (**vs. 30**)? Interestingly enough, Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ writing under Christ’s authority. Where did Paul place his office in regard to importance? Why? (See **Eph. 2:19-20**) What message was Paul communicating to the Corinthians?

2. Do any Christians receive all of the spiritual gifts (**vv. 29-30**)? Why or why not? Why do you think there is such diversity among the spiritual gifts? Have you discovered your own spiritual gift (or gifts) yet? If you have, what do you see as your three strongest spiritual gifts? If not, why not take a few minutes to take one of the online spiritual gift assessment tests below and find out? Please answer the questions as honestly as you can to get an accurate reading.

3. Why did Paul encourage the believers to desire the greater spiritual gifts (**vs. 31**)? What gifts would you consider included among *“the greater”* spiritual gifts? (See **1 Cor. 14:12, 24**) What makes these gifts greater? In **verse 31**, Paul tells the Corinthians that he will show them *“a more excellent way,”* meaning *“the way of love.”* Why is it so important for believers to demonstrate an unselfish *“agape”* love when it comes to our spiritual gifts? What is the ultimate purpose of our spiritual gifts?

MINER’S CORNER – *Manna to live by!*

- Every believer *“was baptized”* (past tense) by the Holy Spirit at the moment of regeneration (salvation)!
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a onetime event; the filling of the Holy Spirit is a continual process throughout the Christian’s life!
- God uniquely gifts every Christian with one or more spiritual gifts; these spiritual gifts are to be used for the building up of the body of Christ!
- We should be grateful for the giftedness God has given us and be willing to use those gifts for His glory!
- Every spiritual gift is needed for the overall health of the local Church; no gift is insignificant!
- Christians should follow *“the way of love”* in all things, but especially in using our spiritual gifts!
- Our love for Christ and our love for each other is the glue that holds the body of Christ (the Church) together!

Online “Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tests”:

<http://www.ewhohope.org/spiritualgifts/> (Under the Resource link)

<https://uniquelyyou.org/catalog/online-profiles/combined-profiles> (\$10.00 for spiritual gifts /or \$18.00 for spiritual gifts and personality profile combined)