

# Christ Fellowship

Series: I Corinthians  
Lesson 23  
Jerry Smith  
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## “The Letter to the Church of God which is at Corinth”

### The Clear Foundation Of Spiritual Gifts: Great Diversity In Divine Unity

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- I. Introduction, 1.1-9
- II. The problem of divisions in the Corinthian Church reflects a misunderstanding of the apostolic message and messenger, 1.10—4.21.
- III. The Various Disorders in the Corinthian Church Arose from Their Failure to Make Wise Moral Decisions, 5.1—6.20
- IV. Difficulties raised by the Corinthians are discussed, 7.1—15.12.
  - A. Difficulties concerning marriage are discussed, 7.1-40.
  - B. Difficulties concerning Christian liberty are discussed, 8.1—11.1.
  - C. Difficulties concerning the role of women and the observance of the Lord’s supper are discussed, 11.2-34.
  - D. Difficulties concerning spiritual gifts are discussed, 12.1—14.40.
    1. The diverse spiritual gifts are all given by the same Spirit in order to build up the body of believers, 12.1-11.
      - a. Spiritual gifts are tested as to origin by whether or not they exalt Jesus as Lord, 12.1-3.

“The presence of the Spirit in power and gifts makes it easy for God’s people to think of the power and gifts as the real evidence of the Spirit’s presence. Not so for Paul. The ultimate criterion of the Spirit’s activity is the exaltation of Jesus as Lord. Whatever takes away from that, even if they be legitimate expressions of the Spirit, begins to move away from Christ to a more pagan fascination with spiritual activity as an end in itself.”

Gordon D. Fee, The First Epistle to the Corinthians, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987), 582.
      - b. Spiritual gifts though manifested in diversity are unified in their source in the triune God through the Spirit, 12.4-11.
    2. The principle of unity and diversity of gifts in the church is illustrated by the human body, 12.12-31a.
      - a. The unity of believers in one body is the result of the baptism by the Spirit into Christ’s body, 12.12-13.
      - b. The human body reflects a diversity of members but a mutuality of dependence, 12.14-26.
      - c. The church likewise has a diversity in membership but a mutuality of dependence, 12.27-31a.