

1Spending Time with Jesus in I Corinthians Chapters 12-13

Invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

1st: read I or II Corinthians (read the one you didn't read last week) all the way through, the whole book, imagining you are Paul saying this to the church in Corinth. To help you remember and ENJOY what you are reading, read out loud for at least 15 minutes each time (longer would be even better.)

2nd: read chapters 12-13 by themselves to remember what it is about.

3rd: read chapters 12-13 again and write down what stands out to you.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through, answer questions as you go:

I Corinthians 12-13

What do you think is the main point Paul is making in chapter 12?

Does chapter 12 lead into chapter 13?

I Corinthians 12:1-3

What does Paul not want the Corinthians to be uninformed about?

From what you know about the Corinthians, what mistaken ideas might they have about gifts?

Why do you think Paul describes the idols as mute? (Hint: look at v. 3)

“Jesus is Lord” is what Christians confessed when they were baptized. Today pastors still ask each person if Jesus is their Lord before they baptize them.

Why is “Lord” capitalized? (Hint: it is saying something about who Jesus is compared to every other power, dominion and authority.)

If Jesus is Lord, than who is He sovereign over (in other words, who is He the boss over)?

Who would the non-believers in Corinth think of as Lord? _____ Who would Jews think of as Lord? _____

What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord of a person’s life?

Why do you think we cannot say “Jesus is Lord” (and really mean it) by ourselves? Why do we require the Holy Spirit to enable us to say that?

I Corinthians 12:4-14

What do you notice about verses 4-6?

The Holy Spirit is...well, spirit...divine...in other words, not part of this physical world that we live in. The “manifestation of the Spirit” is when the Spirit breaks into our physical world in a way that makes it obvious that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world. For instance, the Spirit is at work when a bunch of believers, even with all their human failures and desires, lives together as one, becoming the temple of God so that Jesus works through them to draw everyone to Himself.

Paul uses “manifestation of the Spirit” to describe what word in verse 4? _____ So we could say: “There are different kinds of _____ (manifestations of the Spirit), but the same _____ distributes them.”

Why doesn’t everyone notice the Spirit of God at work? (Look at I Corinthians 2:14.)

Get 2 colors of highlighters or pens and look at verses 4-14:

- With one color, underline or highlight every time you find these words: DIFFERENT, ANOTHER, MANY, and “EACH ONE”. Use this same color to underline the word ONE in verse 8.
- With another color, underline or highlight every time you find these words: ALL, SAME, COMMON, EVERYONE. Use this same color to underline the word ONE in verses 9-14.

Look back at what you underlined. What point is Paul driving home by repeating these words/ideas so many different ways? What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Who hands out the gifts? _____ Who is in control of how the gifts of the Spirit are used?
 _____ (This is what Paul will get to in chapter 14.)

Do you think verse 13 would have been a shock to the Corinthians? Why or why not?

I Corinthians 12:15-31a

What is the point Paul is making in verses 15-20?

What is the point Paul is making in verses 21-26?

Do you remember where we’ve heard things like: “you are the body of Christ”? What other images has Paul used in chapter 3 and in 10:17?

Why does Paul add “each one of you is a part of it” to the end of 12:27?

What makes a gift “greater” as in verse 31? You might have to look into chapters 13 & 14...

I Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

What does Paul mean by “the most excellent way”?

The Corinthians want spiritual things like speaking in tongues, prophecy, knowledge, faith and to give all they have so they can boast about their generosity. These would make them so spiritual!

What is Paul’s point in giving all those “If’s” in 13:1-3? (Hint: does he repeat anything besides “if”?)

“Love” in English can mean different things. I say, “I love chocolate chip cookies” and “I love my husband.” Love means two different things in those examples. Koine Greek, the language Paul wrote in, has 4 words for love, each with different meanings. Paul chose “agape” love for this chapter. To Paul this word means the love that comes from God, and only by being IN Jesus are we able to love God and each other with this love. It is the love God has for Jesus and for us. Wow!

Paul describes God’s love in verses 4-7. Fill in the chart below

Verse	Characteristics of someone with God's love	"Love" according the the world
13:4		Wants what it wants...now!
13:4	Kind	
13:4	Envy	
13:4	Does not boast	
13:4		Stuck on themselves
13:5	Does not dishonor others	
13:5	Self-seeking	
13:5		Short-tempered
13:5	Keeps no record of wrongs	
13:6	Does not delight in evil	
13:6		Rejoices when they get their way
13:7	Always protects	
13:7	Always trusts (in God)	
13:7	Always hopes (has confidence in God)	
13:7	Always perseveres	

What do you notice about God’s love? Is it possible without the Holy Spirit?

In verses 8-12, Paul talks about gifts of the Spirit that won’t last: prophecies, tongues and knowledge. In verse 13, what remain?

Why is love the greatest of those?