



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Benefits of Diversity

LG Questions for 01/23/11

Getting Started

1. **The Diversity of the Gifts.** Think about your family. If you're married, in what ways do you and your spouse differ? Has this caused conflict between you? How have you learned to overcome it? If you're single, but you have brothers and sisters, in what ways do you differ, how has this caused conflict between you, and how have you learned to overcome it?

Getting Into the Bible

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12:14-31, the Apostle Paul continues to call for unity in the family of God. However, now his emphasis is on two potential causes of conflict and how to overcome them by putting a high value on every member, no matter how different our gifts are.

2. **The Danger of the Gifts.** Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20. What attitude do those with less spectacular gifts tend to develop about themselves? Why is this hurtful to the body and how would you help someone overcome it? Read 1 Corinthians 14:21-24. How do those with the spectacular gifts often compound this problem? What has to change in their attitude in order to strengthen the body of Christ? Give an example of how you've seen this done well.
3. **The Duty of the Gifts.** Read 1 Corinthians 12:25-26. What danger must we avoid at all costs as a church? Why? Notice that Paul doesn't tell us to solve the problem by thinking the same and avoiding disagreements. Instead, how do we prevent division and promote unity in God's family? Is your church doing well at this? What about your small group?
4. **The Discovery of the Gifts.** Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31. According to Paul, what are the most visible gifts in the church? Put faces on them and name the most noticeable members in your church. When Paul says, "Eagerly desire the greater gifts," do you think he's urging you to become one of the most noticeable members? Why or why not? What steps would you advise someone to take who wants to discover and develop their spiritual gifts?

Getting Personal and Practical

5. **The Dedication of the Gifts.** Which of the spiritual gifts has the Holy Spirit given you? What has led you to this conclusion? Do others agree with you? In what ways are you or will you use your gifts to serve the members of your small group and the family of God?