

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

New Testament Lesson #176

Paul had established the church in Corinth when he traveled there on a previous trip. Later, Paul received word from some disciples of how the young church was faring in his absence. In some things they were doing well. In other situations, they were struggling. Paul couldn't go to visit them, so he chose to write a letter to encourage the people and help them.

Many parts of the letter are written in answer to specific questions. In addition, a number of chapters begin with the words, "brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant." Paul then follows up providing teaching about a particular item. In chapter 12 Paul specifically teaches the people regarding Spiritual Gifts. In v.7, he explains that, "the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." There were different "gifts" given to different brothers for different reasons, but all by the "same Spirit, ... just as he determines."(v.11)

These Spiritual Gifts were abilities given to specific people by God in order to help the young churches. There were a wide variety of gifts. They included things like: the message of wisdom, message of knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, speaking different tongues or languages, etc. God did not give the same abilities to every person. What a person was capable of doing varied based on God's spirit.

What Paul wanted them to understand is that there wasn't any one gift that was more "valuable" than another. All of them are equally important. The church needed all of them in order to help it grow, to be healthy and to accomplish what God wanted. To help them understand this important point, Paul used the analogy of the body to teach the greater principle of the Spiritual Body. The one body being "made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body."(v.12) Paul further explains that all the parts of the body are needed to work together – no one part being more important than another.

A real body loses mobility when it is missing both legs and it cannot easily get from one place to another. Similarly, if a body has no eyes, it is very difficult for the body to see what it is doing, and it can lose some of its effectiveness. Every piece of the body is needed. In

addition, all these parts work together for the body to function at its best.

This is true of the church as well. It is the spiritual body. It is the "body of Christ"(v.27) with Jesus as the head of the body. All members of the body are equally important and needed for the church to function to the best of its ability.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- In the first chapter of this letter to the Corinthians, Paul speaks to the members to avoid divisions within the congregation. These divisions can easily arise when the wrong emphasis is placed on the value of particular gifts over others. People could become envious of others, who seem to have gifts that are thought to be more glamorous. This is like one part of the body saying to the other it has no value.
- In chapter 14 Paul speaks to the problem of those who were making the gift of speaking in different languages to be most desired. Paul reminds them how it is a gift of little value in the congregation, especially if it is a language people cannot understand. He uses this to teach that the gift of prophecy, being able to speak forth the word of God, was more desirable and of great value.
- In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus gives a parable of talents. It teaches the lesson of the importance of wisely making use of the abilities and talents that God has blessed us with.

ANSWER KEY:

The body is a unit though it is made up of many parts.

61, 46, 46, 113, 78, 85

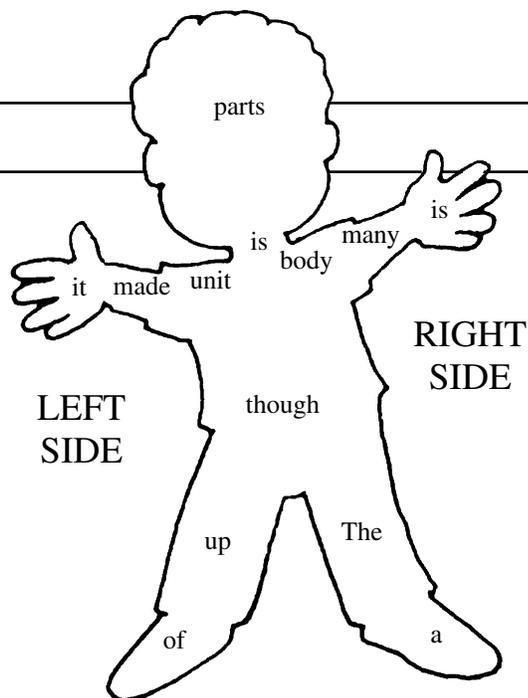
DIFFERENT (ODD)	SAME (EVEN)
GIFTS	GOD
SERVICE	LORD
WORKING	SPIRIT

There should be no division in the body, but its parts should have equal concern for each other.

There are different kinds of gifts,
but the same Spirit!

Fill in the word that may be found on the correct body part.

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Right Leg | Right Shoulder | Neck | Right Foot |
| Left Shoulder | Abdomen | Left Hand | |
| Right Hand | Left Arm | Left Leg | |
| Left Foot | Right Arm | Head | |



Each letter has a number value. Find the sum for each word.
If the sum is even, put the word in the "Same" column. If the sum is odd, put the word in the "Different" column.
C=18 D=4 E=24 F=3 G=14 I=12 K=9 L=8 N=11 O=28 P=16 R=6 S=22 T=10 V=7 W=5

- G + I + F + T + S = _____
 G + O + D = _____
 L + O + R + D = _____
 S + E + R + V + I + C + E = _____
 S + P + I + R + I + T = _____
 W + O + R + K + I + N + G = _____

DIFFERENT (ODD)	SAME (EVEN)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

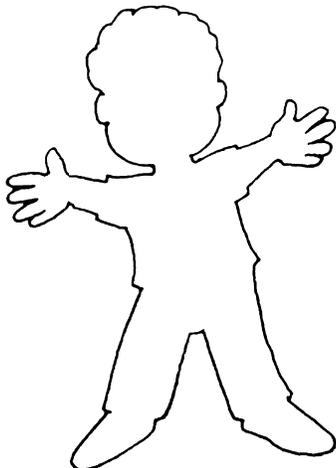
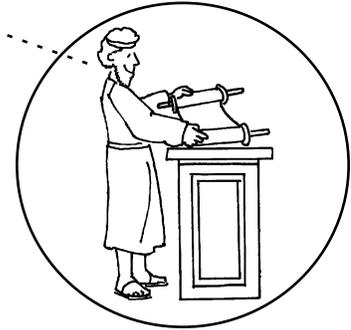
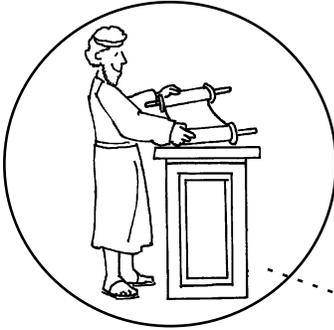
To find the mystery verse, remove the final letters from all the words beneath the line,
then rearrange the remaining letters to make a new word.

- There
~~her~~ ~~tex~~ hole dust ebb one inside void nip
 them dye bow tube sits sty pray dull shoe
 vat her quad leg corny cent from cap her rot them

Name _____

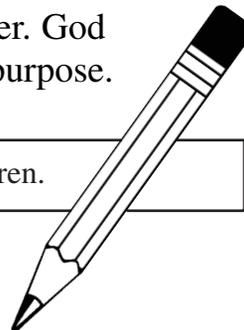
We are given different gifts, and all are very important.

Match the shapes below.



Believers are all part of the body of Christ. No one part is more important than another. God created us all with a purpose.

Finish drawing the children.



Name _____