



# The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

## Bible Course

### Acts to Revelation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 22

#### *Read I Corinthians 12*

God gives each Christian two very important gifts. The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, that is, the work of redemption and the forgiveness of sin. The second is the gift of one or more special abilities called spiritual gifts to be used for the glory of God. Paul speaks of spiritual gifts in three main sections of scripture: Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Peter also speaks of spiritual gifts in I Peter 4:10. These gifts are to be used to unify Christians and produce growth within in the church, both numerically and spiritually. In I Corinthians 12, Paul writes of some of the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives after salvation. Today as well as then, if we see a person using what we believe to be the gifts of the Spirit, we should not necessarily assume they are saved. If the honor and glory is going to man, those works are not of God. Don't forget, Satan can "transform himself into an angel of light". Yet, we do know, as we may have often heard, "God equips the called, not necessarily calls the equipped." Believers are not clones, they will each have their own strengths to be used for the common good with a humble Christ-like demeanor. How are these gifts to be used? Read on.

1. Paul shows that the church has \_\_\_\_\_ of gifts, but they all come from the same place, it is the same \_\_\_\_\_ which worketh all in all ( I Cor. 12:6) ... by the \_\_\_\_\_ (12:8).
2. Paul then lists spiritual gifts in the following verses:
  - a. First, the word of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Second, the word of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Third, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Fourth, the gift of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. Fifth, the working of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f. Sixth, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - g. Seventh, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - h. Eighth, diverse kinds of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - i. Ninth, \_\_\_\_\_ of tongues.

3. Just as a body is one but hath many \_\_\_\_\_ so are believers in the Church.
4. Paul next uses an illustration of the human body to show how each part is useful (I Cor. 12:15-18). The \_\_\_\_\_ does not say, because I am not of the hand, I do not belong to the body. The \_\_\_\_\_ does not say because I am not the eye, I do not belong to the body. After all, if all members were for hearing only, where would be the \_\_\_\_\_? And the eye cannot say unto the \_\_\_\_\_, I have no need of thee (v. 21).
5. Each member of the church has his/her useful part. Together they make up the whole. They are all needed (though God doesn't need any of His children- yet he is pleased to do his Divine work through fallible human beings). Some parts may seem to be more feeble. Some ministers may be less visible. Some people are hidden workers. Yet, all are part of the body of Christ and should have \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 25).
6. After using this human illustration, Paul lists the members of the body of Christ: First, \_\_\_\_\_, secondarily, \_\_\_\_\_, thirdly, \_\_\_\_\_, then workers of \_\_\_\_\_, those with gifts of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, diversities of \_\_\_\_\_ (12:28). Each has a different function.
7. Normally, there is no place for coveting, but here at the end of I Corinthians 12, Paul says to covet \_\_\_\_\_. Paul then closes by saying that he will show them a more excellent \_\_\_\_\_.

### *Read I Corinthians 13*

I Corinthians 13, the famous Scripture passage on love is preceded and followed by chapters on spiritual gifts. There are many diverse gifts to be used for the unity of the Church. For any spiritual gifts, relationships, or interactions with others to be effective, let all be done with charity or love. The way of charity/love is a "more excellent way." Whether in the church, marriage, friendship, or whatever, let all things be done in love. I Corinthians 13 is one of the most famous passages of Scripture on love.

The word Agape' is used throughout I Corinthians 13. This word was not found in the classical Greek language, but only in revealed religion. [This means that the Greek word Paul uses for love, agape, does not occur in any non-biblical Greek literature. In that sense it's very unusual. It's as if Paul picked a rare word and then packed it full of biblical meaning.] Agape' is translated as "charity" in our KJV meaning benevolent love. Its benevolence, however, is not shown by doing what the person loved desires, but what the one who loves deems as needed by the one loved. For example, "For God so loved (egapensen) the world...that he gave..." What did He give? Not what man wanted, but what man needed as God perceived his need, His Son, to bring forgiveness to man. God's love for man is God's doing what He thinks is best for man and not what man desires. Agape is selfless love and the highest form of love. (Strong's)

8. Though we speak with the tongues of men and of \_\_\_\_\_, and have not \_\_\_\_\_, I am become as sounding \_\_\_\_\_, or a tinkling cymbal. If I could speak all the languages of the earth in the most eloquent way, if I didn't do it charitably, it is worth nothing.
9. Faith is said to remove \_\_\_\_\_, yet if I don't have charity, it is nothing.
10. If I give everything away and even give my \_\_\_\_\_ to be burned, yet if I don't have charity, it will not profit. On this Matthew Henry states, that if we leave charity out of religion, the most costly services will be of no avail to us.
11. The importance of love is better than the gift of tongues – write 13:1

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The importance of love is better than the gift of prophecy – write 13:2

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The importance of love is better than the gift of sacrifice – write 13:3

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The Definition of Love is given in verses 4 – 7. Fifteen characteristics are given to begin to describe love, but remember that the true portrait of love is Christ Himself.

12. Charity's characteristics are:

- a. Charity \_\_\_\_\_ long. It endures evil and injury.
- b. Charity is \_\_\_\_\_. As Solomon states in Proverbs 31:26 "in her tongue" is the law of \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Charity \_\_\_\_\_ not. We should never be grieved at the good of others; we should be glad for them, never wishing anyone ill.
- d. Charity vaunteth not itself, it is not \_\_\_\_\_. vaunt = to boast of. If at the root there is pride, this is not charity/love.
- e. Charity does not behave \_\_\_\_\_. Charity does not cross the bounds of decency. We must be careful how we carry ourselves.
- f. Charity does not seek her \_\_\_\_\_. Do you seek praise for yourself: do you seek to enrich yourself at another's expense? A real Christian's grace of charity is self-denial.
- g. Charity is not easily \_\_\_\_\_. Where love reigns supreme, anger cannot be.
- h. Charity does not think \_\_\_\_\_ of others. True love is not jealous of others or suspicious.
- i. Charity does not rejoice in \_\_\_\_\_, but in the \_\_\_\_\_. You may have been pestered by a brother or sister, when in the process of doing so, they hurt themselves. Did you laugh and think or even say, "Hah, you got your punishment." It is called the height of malice to take pleasure in the misery of a fellow creature. During wartime, misery occurs and we may even be part of its cause, but for the Christian, there is no love or joy in it.
- j. \_\_\_\_\_ all things, \_\_\_\_\_ all things,  
\_\_\_\_\_ all things, \_\_\_\_\_ all things.

13. How lovely would Christianity look to the world if Christians followed these principles. What kind of effect do you think it would have?

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The final section of I Corinthians 13 addresses the Permanence of Love (v. 8-13).

14. Charity never \_\_\_\_\_ This makes charity greater than \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 13:12,13). Charity will continue to eternity in heaven. Faith (believing the unseen) will be swallowed up in sight, for now we see through a glass \_\_\_\_\_, but then face to face. There will be no more need for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_ that is seen is not \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:24).

Match the characteristics of true charity:

Charity:		
_____ 15.	Not easily annoyed or irritated, not hot-tempered	a. suffereth long
_____ 16.	Keeps things confidential	b. is kind
_____ 17.	Agrees with and loves the truth	c. envieth not
_____ 18.	Is not rude, overbearing	d. vaunteth not itself
_____ 19.	Gentle, gracious, willing to help	e. is not puffed up
_____ 20.	Is not proud	f. doth not behave
_____ 21.	Doesn't glorify sin	itself unseemly
_____ 22.	Is patient	g. seeks not her own
_____ 23.	Not jealous of others	h. is not easily provoked
_____ 24.	Refuses to flee like a worthy soldier in battle	i. thinketh no evil
_____ 25.	Not selfish or self-seeking	j. rejoices not in iniquity
_____ 26.	Is not bragging	k. rejoiceth in truth
_____ 27.	Doesn't "keep a record", forgets being wronged,	l. beareth all things
_____ 28.	Doesn't ignore reality, but perseveres	m. believeth all things
_____ 29.	Not gullible, but gives others the benefit of the doubt, doesn't attribute evil motives to others	n. hopeth all things
		o. endureth all things