

## The Divine Call to Every-Person Ministry

Rom. 12:9-21

### Part 6

#### Introduction

Last week we noted that in Paul's writings we have three listings of the "gifts of the Spirit" (Rom.12:3-8; 1Cor. chapters 12-14 and Eph.4:7-13).

#### 1. First: With regard to the "gifts of the Spirit"

1. It is only when addressing the "gifts of the Spirit" in detail, that Paul mentions the "Body of Christ" and the "fruit of the Spirit"

(Paul does not necessarily employ this three-fold combination, when he addresses the subject of either, "the Body of Christ" or the "fruit of the Spirit")

One reason for addressing the "gifts of the Spirit" in this particular manner is that:

Diverse spiritual gifts within the "Body of Christ" (especially the so-called, "supernatural gifts" as opposed to the more "common spiritual gifts"), can easily stoke the fire of pride.

#### 2. Second: The "Body of Christ" analogy

1. By using the "Body" analogy, Paul effectively counters division arising from an incorrect view of the "gifts of the Spirit" (the body is made up of many important organs not just one)

2. The incredibly high regard the Trinity has for the "Body of Christ"/the church.

So, we need to be careful that the "gifts of the Spirit" are not a cause for division within the "Body of Christ" (An attack on the church is an attack on Christ Himself-Acts 26:14)

#### 1. Third: The "fruit of the Spirit": The combination of the three components in Romans 12:4-21

1. "Body of Christ" in Rom.12:4-5,

2. The gifts of the Spirit in Rom.12:6-8

3. The "fruit of the Spirit" in Rom.12:9-21

#### 2. The "fruit of the Spirit" defined (Gal.5:22-23)

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Gal.5:22-23)

#### 3. The important nature of the "fruit of the Spirit" (1Cor.12:27-13:4; Matt.7:16-23)

1. Paul: The "gifts of the Spirit" in relation to the "fruit of the Spirit" (1Cor.12:27-13:4)

1. Note the reference to the "Body of Christ" (1Cor.12:27)

2. Note the reference to the roles or functions that different people perform in the "Body of Christ" (12:28-31)

3. The antidote to the gifted and self-serving Corinthian believers (12:31b)

4. What is the "more excellent way?" (1Cor.13:1-3; 3:10-15)

1. "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels..." (13:1)

2. "And if I have (1) *prophetic powers*, and (2) *understand all mysteries* and (3) *all knowledge*, and (4) if I have *all faith...*" (13:2)

3. "If I give away *all I have*, and if I *deliver up my body to be burned...*" (13:3)

2. Jesus: The "gifts of the Spirit" in relation to the "fruit of the Spirit" (Matt.7:16-23)

1. The defining quality of being a Christian (7:16-20; Jn.15:1-17)

1. The "thorn bushes"/"thistles"/"bad tree" produce thorns and "bad fruit"

2. The "grape vine" or the "good tree" produce good fruit (Mk.12:29-31)

3. How do we become part of the true vine and the good tree? (Jn.15:1-8)

2. Notice the false premises of being a Christian (7:21-23)

1. The use/abuse of the Lord's name (7:21,22)

2. The exercising of gifts (7:22)

1. Notice the nature of the gifts (Matt.7:22)

2. Notice that these gifts are also claimed to be performed in the name of Jesus (Matt.7:22)

3. In some Christian circles these gifts are regarded as proof of being a Christian, and even more than that, as being proof of also being, a "Spirit filled" Christian

4. The verdict of Jesus (Matt.7:23)

1. Jesus is the ultimate Judge (Matt.7:22)

2. Many will be deceived (Matt.7:22)

3. The verdict: Jesus never knew them (Matt.7:23)

1.

2.

4. The "fruit of the Spirit" keeps the "gifts of the Spirit" (organs) of the "Body of Christ" working together smoothly (Rom.12:9-13; Gal.5:19-25)

1. What destroys relationships? (Gal.5:19-21)

2. What is fundamental to God-honouring relationships in the "Body of Christ"? (Gal.5:22-25)

## Conclusion

1. Gifts are the servants of love

2. The historical move from "perfectionism" (J Wesley), to the Holiness Movement to the Pentecostal Movement and Charismatic Movements