

Corinth

Post

Modern

Faith

All for One

Recap

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the **special abilities** the **Spirit** gives us. I don't want you to **misunderstand** this. **12:1**

You will recognize that when we start talking about **spiritual gifts** and the functioning of the Body we get into areas that are **highly subjected** to discussion and **controversy** and **disagreement** **Ray Stedman**

Recap

“If it’s true that the Spirit of God dwells in us and that our bodies are the Holy Spirit’s temple, then shouldn’t there be a **huge difference** between the person who has the Spirit of God living inside of him or her and the person who does not?” [Francis Chan, Forgotten God](#)

Recap

A spiritual gift is **given to each of us** so we can **help each other**...It is the one and only **Spirit** who distributes all these **gifts**.

He alone decides which gift **each person** should have. **Vs 7, 11**

“the task of the **church** cannot be attempted without the **Spirit**. I have sometimes heard Christian people talk as though, having done what he's done in Jesus, God now wants us to do our part by getting on with things under our **own steam**. But that is a tragic misunderstanding, and leads either to arrogance or to burnout, or both. Without God's Spirit, there is nothing we can do that will count for God's kingdom. **Without God's Spirit, the church simply can't be the church.**” **NT Wright**

This is how God has used me in the **past**...

The Narcissism Epidemic, Dr. Jean M. Twenge, Dr. W. Keith Campbell

...when people began to cast off societal constraints and expectations in favour of exploring their own **human potential**. This movement didn't begin with a purely narcissistic slant, yet by the 1970s it had morphed into **self-admiration**, **self-expression**, and **self-absorption**. In the 1980s those qualities gave way to self-centredness and self-indulgence, and it was all downhill from there.

further research has supported the referenced increase in feelings of **self-worth**, with one nationwide data set showing **twice** as many American college students answering the majority of questions in a narcissistic direction in 2009 compared with in 1982.

The Narcissism Epidemic, Dr. Jean M. Twenge, Dr. W. Keith Campbell

A recent surge in multiple social media platforms has further added to the rising tide of narcissism. Social media users generate their content, use it mostly for **self-promotion, self-glorification**, look important, show popularity, and gain attention. Scientists have even provided a formula, $N=S/h$ (N=Number, S=Selfies, h=hour), to calculate the number of selfies taken per hour. The higher **frequency** of using Facebook is associated with a higher score on the Narcissistic Personality Questionnaire because users think others are interested. Studies also show that people "...high in superiority feelings prefer Twitter, whereas those high in exhibitionism prefer Facebook."

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (**DSM**) describes narcissism as, "A pervasive **pattern** of **grandiosity**, **need** for **admiration**, and **lack** of **empathy**." This definition states that **self-importance** and **lack of compassion** are the critical elements of narcissistic behaviour.

Spiritual narcissists love churches. By “narcissist,” we are not talking about people who struggle with being too self-focused. That’s most of us. A narcissist is a person whose narcissism influences every aspect of their **functioning**. They are wholly self-focused, lacking in empathy, and willing to lie, cheat, and manipulate others to feed their insatiable need for **power, control, and adoration**. Spiritual narcissists are **predators** who wear a convincing Christian costume. [Bonnie Ronstrom](#)

We’ve looked to the **world** to replicate and then **Christianize its celebrity impulse** and this continues to create all sorts of problems in the Church...Looking to the modern American church and looking back to what we know about the early church—with the church of **Corinth** being exempt—early followers of Jesus seemed much more **skeptical about power, prestige, and affluence**, while modern Americans can swiftly and unapologetically **embrace** various forms of power. [Paul Moldovan](#)

...and you will be **like** God... Genesis 3:b

What does **church** mean to you?

The human body has many **parts**, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been **baptized into one body by one Spirit**, and we all **share** the same Spirit. **12:12-13**

In many cases, what American spirituality avoids is the **bodily reality of human existence**. Too much of American spirituality assumes that “spirit,” a concept originating in Greek thought and Pauline Christianity, is the opposite of “body.” Spirit — we are told — is good, pure and eternal. Body is bad, corrupt and ephemeral. Given that understanding of spirit, it is no wonder that the wide range of American spiritual movements tend to help free the person from the trap of their own bodies and drives. **Judaism is a corporeal religion**. We know that a spirituality that doesn't **redeem the body** with it is merely an escape, and one doomed to failure in the end. **Rabbi Dr. Bradley Shavit Artson**

But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where **he wants it**. How strange a body would be if it had only **one part!** *Vs 18-19*

Your body is unity in diversity **incarnate**. The one you is comprised of an almost incomprehensible number of unique parts that all function together. And every member of your body, strong or **weak**, prominent or **obscure**, is **necessary**. The description of the church as a body is more than simply an analogy. It is the revealing of a **mystery**. The church isn't a mere organization; it really is an **organism**. Christ's body is **alive**. And like a human body, it is an incarnation of unity in diversity. [Jon Bloom](#)

In fact, some parts of the body that seem **weakest** and **least important** are actually the **most necessary**. And the parts we regard as **less honourable** are those we clothe with the **greatest care**. So we **carefully protect** those parts that should not be seen, **Vs 22-23**

The first-century **Roman world** was highly stratified, with slaves and many women having less freedom and less status than free men. About **one-third** of the population of the Roman Empire were **slaves**, but some of the most pitiful were **female slaves**. Thanks to a continuing legacy of Greek philosophers such as Aristotle, many people regarded women as weaker and as inferior to men in practically every respect: physically, intellectually, morally, etc. Aristotle and others also taught that slaves were inferior beings, so female slaves were twice devalued. [Margaret Mowczko](#)

This makes for **harmony** among the members, so that **all the members care for each other**. If one part **suffers**, all the parts **suffer with it**, and if one part is honoured, all the parts are glad. **Vs 25-26**

We often confuse unity with **uniformity**, because it is much easier to gather with people who are like ourselves than it is to reach across the divisions which mark our culture. Thus, few of our churches reflect the **ethnic, social, and economic diversity** of the neighbourhoods around them. Our congregations are often very homogenous, and we are, sadly, comfortable with that. **Brian Peterson**

Because of human sin, the only way **unity** can be obtained is through **force** (“agree or else”), through **coercion** or **deception** (like that of a false religion or a political ideology), or through “kumbaya” unity (a **superficial** “herd” mentality). **Dr. Kim Riddlebarger**

If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even **corrupt tax collectors** do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even **pagans** do that. [Matthew 5:46-47](#)

Parasitic vs Symbiotic

A parasite is an organism that lives **on** or **in** a host organism and gets its food from or at the **expense** of its host. [CDC](#)

Symbiosis is a term describing any **relationship** or interaction between two **dissimilar** organisms. The specific kind of symbiosis depends on whether either or both organisms **benefit** from the relationship. [National Geographic](#)

What does **church** mean to you?

A community of broken and more broken people being gradually transformed into a relational organic (messy) entity that cares/ invests in the “other” in the presence of their transcendent Creator



Time



Talent



Treasure

Now you are the body of Christ, and **each one of you** is a part of it. *Vs 27*

Though the church has many **critics**, it has no **rivals**. *Anonymous*

City Groups

Launching after thanksgiving

Mondays

Wednesdays

Thursdays

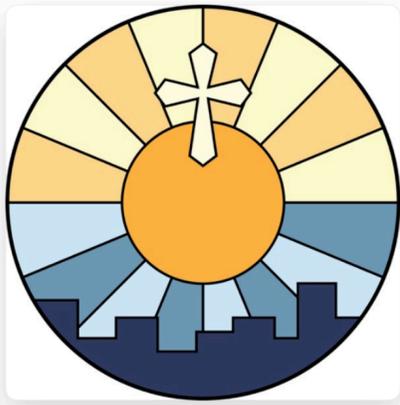


Journey Young Adults

Mondays, Huether Hotel (the board room), 7pm



Combined **Thanksgiving** service at
WCC Sunday October 9th, 10:30am



UCC Waterloo Sermons

Raja Stone

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Half life part 4

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MAY 8

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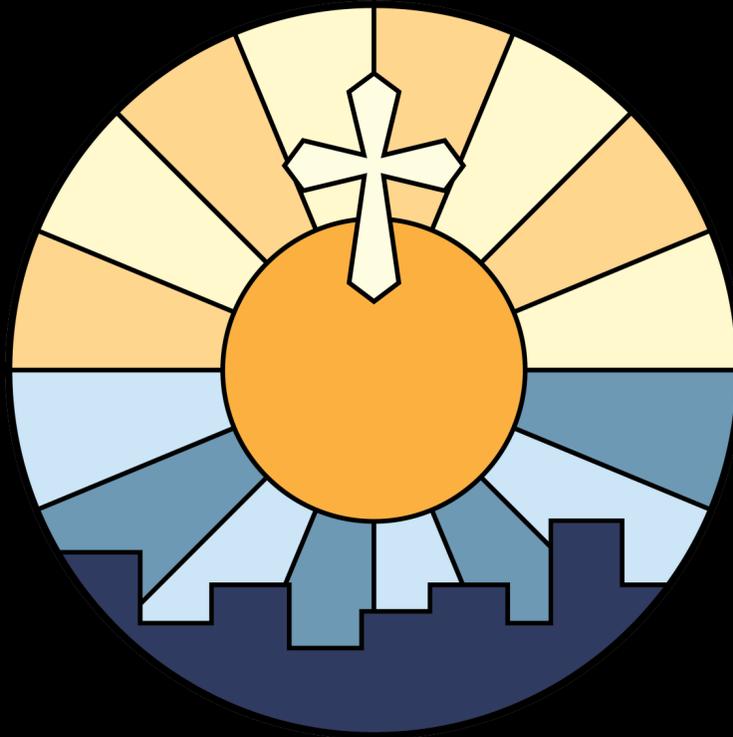
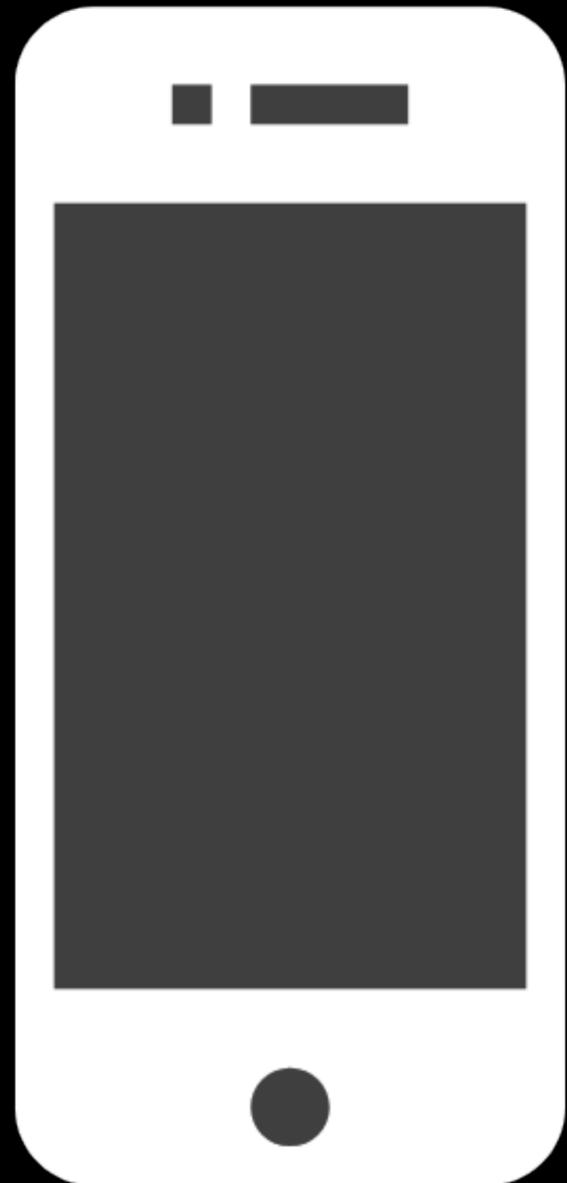
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