



Summary

In the body of Christ, everyone is given ministry gifts by the Holy Spirit. And so, everyone gets to minister. What does that mean for us when we get together in an assembly? For one thing, it means that everyone gets to participate in ministry when we get together. We need to make space for it. For another thing, it means that leadership is important so that everyone gets a chance and that everything happen in a manner that is accessible and intelligible for all. We should all minister with our gifts in every setting, and we should do it in an orderly way that emphasizes loving others as opposed to affirming ourselves.

Things to Explore and Discuss

- 1) Think of a few people who are close to you in church – family or friends. What are their ministry gifts? How might you encourage them to use their gifts on a weekly basis?
- 2) Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-4, 22-33, 39-40. Paul has just talked about the importance of being truly loving in all things (chapter 12). In this chapter, he’s talking about how to go about using spiritual gifts, such as prophecy and tongues. How does this case study on using spiritual gifts reflect a priority of love?
- 3) Why is prophecy greater than tongues? In what context is prophecy greater? In other contexts, could you imagine a different gift being greater than prophecy? What determines whether a gift is great or not?
- 4) What does it mean when Paul says that tongues are a sign for nonbelievers? In what situation do you think this would be true?
- 5) Throughout this chapter, Paul makes comments about how our church gatherings should work. What sort of portrait do you come away with? What should our gatherings be like in terms of spiritual gifts, participation and atmosphere?