

BUILT TO CONTRIBUTE AND BETTER TOGETHER

January 31st 2016 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 by Ben Skeat
Tooling Up To Change The World, Part 2

MAIN IDEA: God equips his church (this church. Us!) with gifts by his spirit for His glory and for the benefit of others

Context: Gifts in the church. Something supernatural is happening amongst Gods gathered people but who is behind it, who is in charge, and who is it all for?

We are built to contribute by THE SPIRIT (v1-11):

- There are lots of different ways that God empowers us for service.
 - *A visible, concrete expression of Gods grace*
 - *All good gifts from a good God for our common - good (cf Jas 1:17-18)*
 - *Variety of gifts is grounded in the reality of the triune God*
- As God equips us we get to experience his life- he is the giver of life

We are better together UNDER JESUS (v4-6,12-14,27)

- There are lots of ways that God equips us for service, and there is one Lord who we are serving
 - *Jesus is our common ground*
- The gifts are given in the context of discipleship
 - *If you want to be used by God, follow Jesus, become his apprentice*
 - *The “name of the game” is love, not power*

We are better together FOR GOD, AND HIS PEOPLE (v4-7, 15-31)

- When we give what have been given, the church functions as God intended
 - *A physical declaration of the wisdom and counsel of God (Eph 3:10-11)*
 - *Grow/bring Gods kingdom (Matt 16:18)*
 - *Physical embodiment of Jesus himself (Eph 4:15-16)*
- When we don't...it doesn't
 - *We can confuse significance with importance*
 - **TRUE** that you are significant, you have a part to play, and something to contribute
 - **ALSO TRUE** that this doesn't make you any better than anyone else
 - *We can be unbalanced in our theology (“the important gift is....”)*
 - *Our pride and lack of love can cut us off from one another (“I don't need you!”)*
 - *Because we are a body our choices don't just impact us: they can help/harm the whole body*
- Gods design for the church is better than what we can come up with ourselves.
 - *Working together we support each other, love each other, build each other*
 - *We are better together!*
 - *Pray, together*
 - *Grow, together*
 - *Go, together*

What does this look like in real life?

Anytime you are with Gods people, be available and expecting that he might have something for you to give to his people as well as to receive. Pursue a lifestyle that makes you ready to give.