

Defending Doctrinal Distinctives

Cessationism:

Spiritual Gifts Overview

Romans 12:4-6b

4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly:

1 Peter 4:10

*As each one has received a special gift,
employ it in serving one another as good
stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1) What are spiritual gifts?

1 Cor. 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

They are gifts given to us by God to make the Holy Spirit known throughout the church, and even to the unbelieving world.

1) What are spiritual gifts?

1 Peter 4:10a – As each one has received a special gift

Every believer receives spiritual gifts.

1) What are spiritual gifts?

Romans 12:6a – Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us

Each believer has a different “type” of gifting.

1) What are spiritual gifts?

Romans 12:4 - For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function

The diversity of gifting matches the diversity of function/ purpose.

2) What is the purpose of these gifts?

1 Peter 4:10 - As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:11c – so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ

2) What is the purpose of these gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:7 – “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

God gives us these gifts so we can serve one another, for their good and His glory!

3) How are these gifts given?

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 - Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

Romans 12:3c & 6a - God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 6a However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us

3) How are these gifts given?

1 Peter 4:11b – *serving by the strength which God supplies*

God gives us the gifts, and the ability to use them!

Focus on Serving, Not the Gift

1 Peter 4:7-11 - The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking actual words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Peter is giving instructions to the church, since “the end of all things is near.”

We are to be serious about prayer, to love each other with intensity, and to welcome each other (with kindness) without complaint.

Then Peter tells us to be good stewards of God’s grace by serving each other.

Those who are gifted to speak and/or teach are to do so as if God is speaking directly through them!

Those who serve in other ways are to serve as those whom God is strengthening!

This is how God will be most glorified by His people as we use our spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another.

6 However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly: if prophecy, in proportion to one's faith; 7 if service, in the act of serving; or the one who teaches, in the act of teaching; 8 or the one who exhorts, in the work of exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

He compares the members of a church to the parts of a body and tells us that we all have a unique purpose/function in fulfilling God's will.

The main focus of verses 6-8 is the proper application of our gifts when we are serving each other.

We are not to be focused on what gifts another believer has, but only on how we can faithfully serve the body and bring glory to God!

Diverse Gifts, But Equal Importance

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one part, but many.

15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many parts, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again, the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those parts of the body which we consider less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor, and our less presentable parts become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable parts have no need of it.

But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that part which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it.

Every part is equally important to the
proper functioning of the body

Diversity in the body is a huge blessing and is
necessary.

This is one of the reasons why God-fearing
Christians can disagree on what our focus should
be...

- Some focus on teaching/learning, while others may focus more on serving and discipleship, while others on evangelism or missions.

- All of these things are commanded and commended in scripture, and are necessary for a healthy body!

- So resist the temptation to judge someone based on your convictions or gifting.

Your gifts are needed even if you don't recognize it!

If you are not operating in your gifts, the body is not at full strength.

The parts that normally receive honor have an obligation to bestow honor on the less-honored parts.

Some parts are more susceptible to injury and must be protected.

We all rejoice and suffer together!