

We will begin the 11<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 Corinthians. /The message is from 12:12. /The third point is “One body needs many members.” /As I previously said, the title of chapter 12 is “Gifts.”

/ “Gifts” in Greek is “karismata.” / “Karismata” is the plural form of “karisma.” /A gift is a present that is free. /A gift does not depend on human merit, /but it is the talent that God in his grace gives to us. /It can also refer to one’s duty or calling.

/Verses 12-13. Let us read. /For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

/The verse says, “The body is one.” The church is the body. /Of course, the head is Jesus Christ. /Believers are members of the body. /One body has many members. /God gave different gifts to each believer, but they are all for one body.

/Take a look at verse 13. /It says, “For in one Spirit we were all baptized.” /There are two types of baptisms. /One is baptism of water, and the other is baptism of the Holy Spirit.

/Baptism of the Holy Spirit is also called baptism of fire. /When the believer puts his faith in Jesus as his Savior, he is baptized in the Holy Spirit. /Some people argue that in order for us to receive power or to do our duties, we must be baptized in the Holy Spirit again. /However, this is not what the Bible teaches.

/To be baptized means to be washed clean. /When the believer, in the Holy Spirit, believes in Jesus Christ, he is forgiven of sins and made clean.

/Verse 13 says, “All were made to drink of one Spirit.” /It expresses the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the believer in a special way. /In the way our bodies need water to live, /we believers must have fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

/Paul is saying all believers have fellowship with one Person, the Holy Spirit. /He also emphasizes the need for unity in the church and for believers to live in harmony in the Holy Spirit.

/Verses 14-16. /For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

/Many members are attached to a body. /The foot itself cannot say that it is useless. /If it does say this, then the person becomes a disabled person without a foot. /The foot does the walking, and the hand does what hands are supposed to do.

/The church has gifts and positions that are like the eye, nose, and ear. /Without different members, the body of Christ cannot be made complete.

/Verses 17-19. /If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

/Paul explains the diversity of gifts by comparing them to members of the body. /He takes for example the ear and nose. If the ear and nose try to be an eye, who will do the hearing and smelling?

/If believers in the church try to receive gifts or positions that make them look honorable, it isn't the proper way of the church. /As we already learned, God gave the church many members according to his will.

/If God needed a nose, he gave a nose, /and if he needed a mouth and eye, he gave the mouth and eye to make the entire body complete. /In this way, God arranges some people to be the eyes, some to be ears, some to be mouths, and some to be hands. God does this as he wills, and he does it so that the body of Christ would have what it needs.

/A believer must not desire anything more than is given to him. /We must be humble and faithfully manage the gifts and duties given to us. /Then God will be glorified and it will be good for the church.

/Verses 20-21. /As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

/No matter how valuable the eye is, we cannot only have the eye and no hand, /and no matter how valuable the head is, we cannot only have the head and no feet. /In this way, we mustn't view others as useless just because we see them as lower than us.

/Verses 22-25. /On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

/In verse 22, it says, "Parts of the body that seem to be weaker." /There are some body parts that appear to be weak. For example, the tongue, the heart, and the lungs. /These organs appear weak, but they are more indispensable and better protected.

/It says, "Those parts of the body that we think less honorable." /Verse 23 is talking about something like our torso. /We cover our torsos with clothes. /We cover our unpresentable parts with beautiful clothing.

/We do not put clothes on the presentable parts of our body, such as our face. /Similarly, in the church, strong believers must protect lowly believers, and they need to cover those who are lacking. /We also need to hold onto those who are weak. /It is truly a beautiful thing when the people of the church help each other to fulfill Christ's movement of life.

/Verse 26 says that if one member suffers, all suffer together. /All the members form a community. /Foreigners are also treated as members of the community. /If a pastor does something wrong, all pastors are criticized.

/If one believer does something wrong, the entire church is criticized. /Therefore we must regard our weak brother as our own body, and we must love and help each other to glorify God.

/Fourth, do your duties but desire for higher gifts.

/Verse 28. /And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

/Up to verse 27, the word compares believers to the body of Christ and its members, and it emphasizes the diversity of members in the church and the need for unity. /It is saying that the universal church, which has Christ as its head, is one.

/After verse 28, the word tells us to do our duties while we desire for higher gifts. /Paul especially speaks of the positions within the church at his time. /Ephesians 4:11,12 say, / "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

/Apostles are listed in the verses. /The apostles are the twelve disciples whom Jesus himself sent. /The Apostle Paul was added to replace Judas Iscariot. /Next are the prophets.

/Prophets are people who come to a new understanding of the word of God and deliver it. /We can say that pastors of today fall under the position of prophet. /Next are the teachers. /Teachers are people who teach the Bible.

/The Holy Spirit gives a variety of gifts, including the gift of miracles, the gift of healing, the gift of helping, the gift of administrating, and the gift of a variety of tongues. /He gave the gifts of faith and helping one another to everyone.

/Verse 29 tells us that not every believer can be an apostle. /Not everyone can be a prophet or teacher, and not everyone can have the gift of miracles or the gift of healing. / Not everyone can speak in tongues, and not everyone can interpret tongues.

/Therefore, it is wrong to say that every believer must speak in tongues. /We need to serve in accordance with the gifts God has given to us. /Being greedy and doing whatever we want to do is not right before God.

/Verse 31. /But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

/The verse says, “But earnestly desire the higher gifts.” /It continues, “And I will show you a still more excellent way.” /Paul says we need to earnestly desire the higher gifts. In verses 8-10, we learned about the nine gifts. We need to desire gifts that are higher than these nine.

/Next is chapter 13, the chapter about love. Chapter 14 tells us to desire what is spiritual, and it is connected to the message here. /Then what are higher gifts? /It is the word of God.

/The word of God is a gift higher than speaking in tongues—it is a higher spiritual gift. /If we look at 14:1 and 14:39, the word tells us to desire to prophesy more than we desire to speak in tongues. /The believers in Corinth thought that the things they had were outstanding.

/For example, Paul told the believers in Corinth, who had a special interest in speaking in tongues, to desire a higher gift. Paul said this for the good of the entire church.

/Chapter 14 compares speaking in tongues to prophesying, and it stresses the superiority of prophesying. /12:31 says, “And I will show you a still more excellent way.” /What is the excellent way? The answer is in 1 Corinthians 13.

/The excellent way is the way of love. /Love is Christianity’s greatest commandment. /It is a universal gift that anyone can practice. /Above all else, love is the best quality in building up a church. /Therefore, while we desire higher gifts, we must fulfill these things in love.

/We will begin the lecture on chapter 13. /The excellent way! It is love. /The title of chapter 13 is “Love.” /Theologians say that of Paul’s letters, chapter 13 is the greatest, most profound writing.

/Why does Paul talk about the gifts of the Holy Spirit in chapter 12 and suddenly change the topic? /Though a gift may be spectacular, it is limited to this world, and it is temporary. /However, love is eternal and absolute. Love is also a necessary element for the display of gifts.

/First, the value of love. Verses 1-3. /Second, the characteristics of love. Verses 4-7. /Third, the persistence of love. / “Persistence” refers to the eternal nature of love.

/First, the value of love. /Love cannot be compared to any gift.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

/Love is more important than speaking in tongues or angels. /Also, if a believer has this gift but does not have love, he is but a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. /If a believer speaks in tongues but has no love, he is like an instrument without life.

/This love is “agape” love as we know it. /In Greek, love can be expressed in four ways. /First, there is “storge.” /This is love between family members, love between people of the same kind. /The second kind of love is “philia” /This is the love between friends. /The third is “eros.” /This is the love between a man and a woman.

/The message today talks about “agape” love. /This refers to holy love in God. /Because the believers in Corinth thought highly of and boasted in gifts, such as speaking in tongues, Paul says these things. /Though they may speak in tongues of men and of angels, if they do not have love, no good comes from it.

/Verse 2. /And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

/Second, love is greater than having prophetic powers and understanding all mysteries and all knowledge. /Third, love is greater than having faith that can move mountains. /Love is more important than any gift or character a person could have.

/No matter how great the gift, if the motive is not love, it does no good. A gift without love cannot save lives. /If someone has the talent of studying the Bible and knowing God’s mysteries but does not have love, he only has knowledge.

/The world of love is the spiritual world, and if we cannot enter the spiritual world, then there is no good. /Faith that can remove mountains is faith that can overcome any difficulty. /Even still, if there is no love, it won’t be life for this person. There are no fruits of the Holy Spirit.

/Verse 3 says, “If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. /If we Christians do something great but do not have love, we do not bear fruit. We are simply a shell.

/The world of love is the spiritual world. /It is the world of the spirit. /Though we do charity work, it does not bring our souls to life and give us salvation. /Sacrificing one’s body and possessions for others is a great deed and a big sacrifice.

/However, without love, it is only charity, and the soul is not saved. /Without love, giving aid to others does no spiritual good. 1 John 4:7, 3:14.

/Whatever we do without a heart of love discontinues the spiritual work of life. /If there is the work of life in us, there must be love. /There is no hate in this person.

/As we learned, love is the first of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. /Therefore it is most important that our spirits come to life in the world of love.

/Second, verses 4-7, the characteristics of love. /What are the characteristics of love? /Believers! What color is light? /When light passes through a prism, it emits colors of red, orange, and other colors to form a total of seven colors.

/We can analyze the properties of love in this way /to discover fifteen characteristics of love. /We are talking about the characteristics and the practical aspects of Christ's love.

/(1) It begins with "Love is patient." /It ends with "Endures all things." /In other words, concerning a Christian's practical morals, there is an emphasis on patience. /It is important that we are patient.

/We call our generation the generation of rage. /Everyone is filled with rage, and it is expressed in the different classes of society. /However, Christians are people who have received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in us.

/When our regenerated spirit follows the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are able to bear the fruits of love, and we are able to be patient. / (2) Love is kind. /This is an attitude of gentleness and kindness. Whoever is filled with the Holy Spirit can't help but be kind. /The opposite of kindness is stubbornness.

/Paul says, "If you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." / (3) "Love does not envy." /To envy is to have hate for someone when the person is better than me.

/(4) Love does not boast. /Someone who lives in Christ does not compare with others, but he always realizes his shortcomings to please the Lord. /Also, because this person is satisfied in God, he does not boast of himself. He only boasts in Jesus.

/(5) Love is not arrogant. /Jesus said, "I am gentle and lowly in heart. /Therefore, we Christians must definitely be gentle and lowly in heart. /The world of love is the world of humility.

/(6) "Love is not rude." /In other words, love is well mannered. /By believing in Jesus, we have become free people. /We have the right to do anything. /But because the world of love is a world of order, we need to keep our manners. /God's world is a world of order, a world of lawfulness.

/It isn't a world of lawlessness. /God operates the universe and all of creation according to laws and order. /The first four of the Ten Commandments are laws on how to do right with God. /Commandments 5 to 10 are laws on how to do right with people. /The basis of the Ten Commandments is love.

/(7) Love does not insist on its own way. /The person who lives in the world of love remembers the sacrificial love of Christ. For this reason, this person devotes himself to Christ and imitates Christ to walk the way of sacrifice.

/He does not insist on his own way. /He longs for the good of his neighbor. /He seeks the good of God's kingdom. /Whoever insists on his own way is someone taken by greed, someone who has left the world of love.

/(8) Love is not irritable. /It says that the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. /This person leaves all things to God, who judges in justice. /He believes that God's grace has allowed his surroundings, circumstances, and incidents, all of which are intended to make the person. /Joseph did not get angry, but he was patient.

/When Stephen was stoned to death by his enemies, he did not get angry, but he prayed for them. / (9) Love is not resentful. /Though people hurt him and treat him unfairly, the person who lives in the world of love is not resentful.

/Jesus told us to forgive someone who sins seven times seventy times. /Therefore, though we are unfairly treated, we must not hold a grudge and take revenge. /With love, the believer must cover a multitude of sins and faults.

/1 Peter 4:8. /People do not remember being disciplined by their parents. /If they happen to remember being disciplined, they are not disappointed because they love their parents.

/(10) Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing. /The world of love is the world of righteousness. /Unrighteousness belongs to the devil. /A person who lives in God's world of love cannot rejoice in unrighteousness. /Acting in unrighteousness is to betray God and build up God's wrath.

/Therefore, whoever delights in unrighteousness follows the guidance of the devil and has left the world of love. / (11) Love rejoices with the truth. A person living in the world of love rejoices with the truth and rejoices with righteousness.

/Like a fish that cannot live in rotten water, a person who lives in the world of love rejoices with the truth and with righteousness. /Because the spirits of believers have been born again in the truth and in the Holy Spirit, we are people of truth. /Furthermore, the believer must always long for the truth and hold the truth as his food.

/(12) Love bears all things. /Patience appears three times when it talks about the characteristics of love. /To be patient is to be allowing of someone who has hurt you by doing wrong.

/Though we may suffer injustice, we must be patient and believe that God, in his justice, will judge.

/We also need to remember that in the end, God will make us victorious.

/(13) Love believes all things. /The world of love is the world of faith. /We believe that all things will be fulfilled as the word of God says. /Romans 8:28 says, / “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

/God works so that all things work together for the good of his believers. We need to believe this. /(14) “Love hopes all things.” /The world of love is the world of hope. /Even when we are in a situation of despair, we must believe in God and have hope.

/If we have hope when we encounter trials and evil situations, we will eventually be blessed. /(15) “Love endures all things.” /The world of love is the world of patience. /If we endure for a while but do not endure until the end, we fail.

/A certain pastor said that patience is an important quality for believers to have. /The believer must first, be patient, second, be patient, and third, be patient. /If a person is patient three times, then people may not commit murder. /We need to be patient until the end.

/The third main point, which is on verses 8-13, is about the persistence of love. /It is the conclusion of chapter 13. /We are talking about the eternalness and persistence of love.

/Other gifts are temporary and incomplete. Other gifts disappear when what is perfect comes from heaven. /However, love is a part of God’s nature. Love is eternal.

/Verse 8 says, / “Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.” /The Corinth church did not understand the preciousness of love, but they only boasted in and thought highly of speaking in tongues, prophecies, and knowledge.

/The verse says, “As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.” /For example, Isaiah 7:14 says, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” /When Jesus was born, the prophecy was fulfilled.

/It says that tongues will cease. /Once we leave this world, there will come a day when tongues cease. /There is no need for tongues in heaven. /There is no need for knowledge when the world disappears. /We won’t need any of the knowledge we have in this world when we go before God.

/Verses 9-10. /For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

/What we know in this world, we know in part. /However, when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. /Then what is “the perfect?” We can look at it in two ways.



/First, this perfect thing is the world of love, or entering the world of light. /Second, it refers to Christ's second coming and to heaven. /When we enter the world of love and the spiritual world, we will come to know more about this world.

/Not entering this world means knowing in part, and we need to enter this world for the eyes of our spirit to be opened. /When Jesus returns, we will come to know everything in heaven.

/Verses 11-13. /When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

/When the believer believes, his spirit is born again. When the believer's spirit is born again, he is still a child. /His spirit must grow for him to be a mature person. /1 Corinthians 3:1-3. /Hebrews 5:12-14.

/The things we say, understand, and think when we are children are immature and without discernment. /But when the believer enters the spiritual world, the world of love, he eats solid food and grows to be a mature soul.

/We need to enter the world of love if we are to abandon the ways of a child and speak properly, understand, and think like a mature person. /To a believer, knowing the kingdom of God through the Bible is like seeing dimly into a mirror.

/Because mirrors in Paul's time were made of metal plates, they could only see dimly. /When Jesus comes again, we will see the Lord and get to know him, and we will get to know ourselves.

/Faith, hope, and love will always exist. /These three will be forever in this world and in heaven. /In heaven, there is the faith of believing in God, hope of wanting to be more like God, and love for God.

/Also, in heaven, love between God and believers is eternal, as is the love between believers. /The greatest of these is love. /Love is the greatest and best way. /We must live our lives in awe of God's love. /We need to put into practice the love that God has abundantly poured down on us.

/This concludes the 11<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.