1 Corinthians 12: 1-9

Unity and Spiritual Gifts

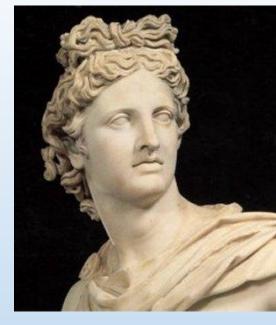
Problems in Corinth:

- Wrong ideas about wisdom and knowledge
- Divisions about leaders
- Moral issues
- Divisions between rich and poor
- Disorderly worship.

Now about things to do with the spiritual, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols. Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be a curse,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

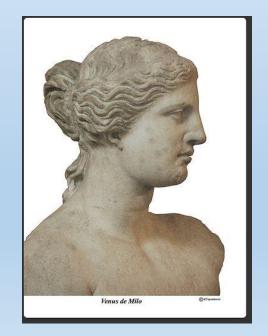




Apollo

Temple of Apollo at Corinth

Aphrodite





Curse tablets

Different gifts.....but the same Spirit

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers,

To another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits,

To another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12: 8-11

Lessons for us today.

- Remember where we are now in Christ. Do not hold on to old ways of life.
- Work to discover the gifts that God has given to you. Remember that this list is not a complete one!
- Do not use them to draw attention to yourself.
- Work to keep the unity of the fellowship.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:3-6