

INTRODUCTION: Message - "Under The Influence" (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

Have you ever attended a church because your curiosity was aroused? Perhaps you heard that *something interesting* was going on over there at that place. Some Christians are never satisfied and hop from church to church... dragging their "baggage" along behind them.

The Corinthian church was struggling to coexist amongst a large pagan population. These pagan worshippers of idols and other gods also heard something new was happening down the street... and they wanted in on it! The problem was... they brought some "junk" along with them. The church was being infiltrated with heathen practices and immature behavior! Now what?!?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Read 1 Corinthians 1:11, 7:1a, and 12:1. Why is Paul writing to the Corinthian church?
- 2) Read 1 Cor 12:3 (Compare with Matt 7:21-22). What activity was Paul addressing in this verse? Is it possible that some were speaking under the influence of satan?
- 3) Compare the following scriptures: Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11. What is your understanding about the number of gifts from the Holy Ghost? Do we know how many spiritual gifts there are?
- 4) Read Acts 2:38. What is the ultimate gift that we should seek after?
- 5) Read 1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:11-13;. Why does the Holy Ghost enable the believer with any spiritual gifts at all? What is the primary purpose of the gift (or gifts)?

SO WHAT?:

Most Christians like to believe that they are spiritually mature. It has been said that a person can be "so spiritually minded that they are of no earthly use". It's not what others see that determines how spiritual we are... but what God sees. Our spiritual maturity is defined by how stable and deep our relationship is with Him. The Holy Ghost decides which gifts to give, who gets the gifts, and when. To be jealous or envious of someone else's gift is pointless because that person had no part in the decision. Remember: acceptable service to God begins within the heart and the Holy Ghost enables the believer to serve by granting the appropriate gift.

THINK ABOUT IT:

"And he said, You take care to seem right in the eyes of men, but God sees your hearts: and those things which are important in the opinion of men, are evil in the eyes of God."
(Luke 16:15 Bible in Basic English - BBE)