

Spiritual Gifts Mini-Series (from I Cor.12-14)
Part 2: The Smorgasbord – I Cor.12:4-12; Eph.4:7-13; Rom.12:6-8

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 In praise of ‘Chinese buffets’ and more
- 0.2 The God of plenty, diversity and extravagance
- 0.3 Since spiritual gifts are for the common good (I Cor.12:7), loads of extravagance

1.0 The Smorgasbord – By Passage

- 1.1 Word of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing spirits, different tongues/languages, interpretation of tongues (I Cor.12:8-10)
- 1.2 Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers (Eph.4:11)
- 1.3 Prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, showing mercy (Rom.12:6-8)
- 1.4 Nearly two dozen descriptions that are themselves diverse in nature & style

2.0 The Serving Dishes

- 2.1 Some involve seasoned learning: e.g. wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, pastor-teacher
- 2.2 Some are extraordinary/impressive: e.g. healing, miracles, language, spirit-distinction
- 2.3 Some involve ‘office’: e.g. apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor-teacher
- 2.4 Some present quality of lifestyle: serving, exhorting, giving, leading, showing mercy
- 2.5 Some present with uncertainty: e.g. evangelists today? prophecy how? distinctions?
- 2.6 Despite all that may be unclear, certain facts are absolutely clear:
 - God is behind every one of these (I Cor.12:11; Eph.4:4-6)
 - Diversity aimed at unity (Rom.12:5; I Cor.12:11; Eph.4:13)
 - As human body is diverse & inter-dependent, so are we (I Cor.12:12-31)

3.0 On Your Plate

- 3.1 Your plate is but one piece of the buffet – it’s the nature of the game
- 3.2 How do we get to recognize what is actually on *our own* plate?
 - a) inclinations & interests b) confirmation of friends c) affirmation of church
 - there are right kinds of aspiration and yearning (I Cor.12:31; 14:1)
- 3.3 Wise technicians appreciate what others have to offer

Next week (Feb.27) – Part 3: What’s Love Got to Do With It?
I Cor.12:31-14:1