

1 Corinthians 12-16

Study Ahead

The major subject Paul addresses in these chapters is that of spiritual gifts and their proper use in the body of Christ (chapters 12-14). The reality of the bodily resurrection is covered, since some were questioning the truth of this (chapter 15).

1. Read ch.12. What point does Paul make about the “body” and about the importance of each individual part?
2. His listing of “spiritual gifts” is not exhaustive. There are other gifts mentioned in Romans 12, Ephesians 4 and 1Peter 4. Have you ever taken a spiritual gift inventory? Do you know what your spiritual gifts are?
3. The “love chapter” sits in the middle of 2 chapters dealing with the proper use of spiritual gifts. What do you think is Paul’s point in talking about love here in this context? What problem is behind this?
4. In chapter 14 Paul emphasizes that spiritual gifts should be used for one *primary* purpose. What is that purpose?
5. Chapter 15 deals at length with the resurrection of Jesus, and of us. It is the longest chapter in the Bible on this subject, so study it well. What was the problem that Paul was addressing?
6. Can you pick out all the things that Paul says would be true IF the resurrection of Jesus DID NOT happen? There are a lot of them!
7. People back then must have been questioning what kind of body a resurrected person will have. What does Paul say about our resurrection bodies?
8. What is the closing admonition in this chapter, and why is it fitting in light of the whole chapter?
9. Study the closing chapter (16). What commands or key ideas can you find here?