

SERMON NOTES Sunday 19 January sunnysidechurch

Bible passages 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11

Introduction

- 'Now about the gifts of the Spirit' (v1): Paul addressing issues raised by the Corinthians
- We too often have misconceptions about the Holy Spirit

no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit (v3)

- church in Corinth divided by ideas that some Christians were more spiritual than others
- Paul says there is no such things as ordinary Christians and spiritual Christians – if we can say that Jesus is Lord then the Holy Spirit is in us and we are spiritual

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. (v4)

- There is no hierarchy of spiritual gifts
- Spiritual gifts are not earned but given and the Holy Spirit decides who to give the different gifts to

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (v7)

- Each believer is given at least one gift which is to be used to serve God and his Church
- God gives the Church all she needs to grow and flourish

Conclusion

- What is your gift and how are you using it to serve God and his Church at Sunnyside?

Some questions for discussion

1. What is your experience of the Holy Spirit?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12.1-11. What do you notice?
3. Read John 2.1-11. What does Jesus' miracle teach us about the gifts of the Spirit?
4. Make a list of gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4. Which other gifts can you think of?
5. Each believer has at least one spiritual gift. What is yours? If you don't know, why not ask someone else?
6. How might you use your spiritual gift to serve God at Sunnyside?
7. Our vision at Sunnyside is to be recognised as a Christ-centred community of living faith which seeks to make Jesus known to others. In what ways will the spiritual gifts we have received help us in making this more of a reality?
8. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

And so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (1 Corinthians 12.14)

Why not spend some time thanking God for Sunnyside and asking him to show us how we might grow in spirit and in number by using the gifts he has given us?

Revd Rebecca Fardell