

# WEEK 3: CHURCH SERVICE

## DAY 1: ONE BODY—MADE FOR LOVE

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

You have read a beautiful chapter about love. These verses are famous. They discuss the greatest thing in the world.

What is the greatest thing in the world that these verses talk about? It is \_\_\_\_\_. In the **King James Version**, it is called *charity*. The word is *love* in most other versions.

**Love** is the greatest thing in the world. God is that love. Christ lives in you to give that love to other people. The body of Christ (church) is made to show love. People are “called out” to let Christ’s love change their lives. Every day His love causes you to become more like Christ.

Now read 1 Corinthians 13 again. This is sometimes called the love chapter. Which of the list is not as good as love.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Great knowledge about spiritual things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wonderful speaking skills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being willing to die for truth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Giving a lot to poor people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Strong faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All of these.

Did you understand that all of these are mentioned in 1

Corinthians 13:1-3? Maybe you checked the last line. Maybe you checked all of the lines. **Remember**, the point is that **all** of these things are good. But they are not as good as love.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 again. List the many positive things Paul said about love.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Which one do you want the most in your life? Write your initials beside it.

Surprise! **All** of these are yours. You are a Christian. God is love. And the Son of God, Christ living in you, will make these things stronger and stronger in your life as you let Him control you.

Write the verse number beside the picture Paul used to talk about us.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A person looking in the mirror.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A baby becoming a man.

Verse 12 describes our limited knowledge about things as being like a person looking in a dirty mirror. Verse 11 compares it to baby talk. That is the reason that knowledge is not equal to **love**.

Paul listed in 1 Corinthians 13:8,13 five things that are not love. Write an X beside the things that do not stay as long as love. Put

a check mark beside the things that are not as great as love.

\_\_\_\_\_ Prophecy

\_\_\_\_\_ Faith

\_\_\_\_\_ Tongues

\_\_\_\_\_ Hope

\_\_\_\_\_ Knowledge

Prophecy, tongues, and knowledge will stop (pass away). (Did you write an **X**?) Faith and hope are great. They are not as great as love. (Did you put a **check mark** beside them?) **Love** is the greatest thing in the world. That is the reason God wants His love to go through you to other people.

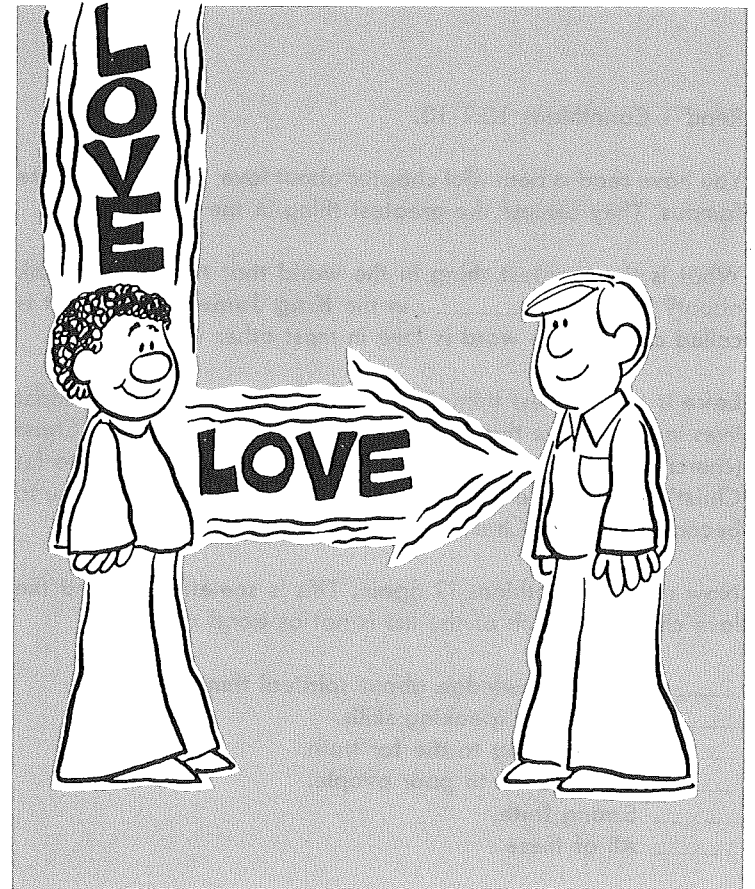
God made you a **working member** of the church when He added you to the church (His body). He gave you **spiritual skills** called **gifts**. The gifts are like learning a new skill. The more you practice, the better you become. As God uses you to love other people, then your skills become better and better. Their **purpose** is to let more of Christ's love go through you to other people. Your "work" for Him is to become a way for Him to love people. That is the reason He gave you skills.

The most important thing to remember about gifts is that they are ways for you to show Christ's love. You should not ignore your gifts (skills). You should not focus on them either. Gifts are important only if you are letting Christ's love show through them.

This is clear in your first memory verse for this week. It is 1 Peter 4:10. *Read it now.* Here it is again from the **New Life Version**.

"God has given each of you a gift. Use it to help each other" (1 Peter 4:10, NLV).

Tomorrow and all week we will be learning more about how to use our gifts to help one another.



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## DAY 2: EVERY MEMBER HAS A JOB

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:11-16.

A leg that does not work right causes the whole body to be crippled. A gland that does not work right can kill the body. The Bible is clear that EVERY MEMBER OF A BODY OF CHRIST (CHURCH) HAS A JOB!

God added you to the church to become a working member of it. He gave you spiritual skills called gifts when He put you in the church. You can and should begin to use some of these gifts (skills) immediately. You will not begin to use some gifts God has given you until you become mature. Christ will show you when to use more of your gifts as you become obedient to Christ.

There is a difference between **gifts** and **talents**. A **gift** is a spiritual skill that only Christians have. Many people who are not Christians have talents. Example: Sign language signing is a **talent** that can be used for God or for people. It is not a spiritual gift. Faith is a spiritual **gift** (skill). It is used to give God glory.

List some of your talents. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You have been learning some Bible verses that talk about the same thing you read today. Romans 12:4-5 says that everybody in the church has a job. Write that memory verse from last week.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday you started to memorize a new verse about the **gift** God has given you. You learned how you can use it to help other people. Write as much as you can of 1 Peter 4:10 here.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to check your memorization of the verses so that you don't memorize them the wrong way. Now read another part of the Bible that talks about gifts. It is 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. After you read the verses, finish the chart below.

1 CORINTHIANS 12	DIFFERENT	THE SAME
Verse 4	gifts	Spirit
Verse 5		
Verse 6		

All of the words in the "DIFFERENT" part should be about the **gifts** (skills). All of the words in "the same" part should be about

God because He gives us the gifts.

**Why** does God give us the gifts? The reason is in 1 Corinthians 12:7. Read the verse and put a check mark beside the right answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ For the benefit of the person who gets the gift.

\_\_\_\_\_ For the benefit of all people in the church.

You should put a check beside the second one. Now read some other important verses about the church. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. These verses here are from the **New Life Version**.

11 Christ gave gifts to men. He gave to some the gift to be missionaries, some to be preachers, others to be preachers who go from town to town. He gave others the gift to be church leaders and teachers.

12 These gifts help his people work well for Him. And then the church which is the body of Christ will be made strong.

13 All of us are to be as one in the faith and in knowing the Son of God. We are to be full-grown Christians, standing as high and complete as Christ is Himself.

14 Then we will not be children any longer. Children are like boats thrown up and down on big waves. They are blown with the wind. False teaching is like the wind. False teachers try everything possible to make people believe a lie.

15 But we are to hold to the truth with love in our hearts. We are to grow up and be more like Christ. He is the leader of the church.

16 Christ has put each part of the church in its right place. Each part helps other parts. This is what is needed to keep the whole body together. In this way, the whole body grows strong in love.

Underline every sentence in these verses that helps you understand that it is important for you to experience spiritual growth. (You should be able to find five or six, maybe more.)

Do you see in Ephesians 4:16 what responsibility members of the church have for one another?

"\_\_\_\_\_ part \_\_\_\_\_ other parts." Notice the last two words of this verse are "in **love**."

USE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF  
SERVICE AND GIVING TODAY!



# WEEK 3: CHURCH SERVICE

## DAY 3: GIFTS

Read Romans 12:1-8; 1 Peter 1:13-16.

God has given you many spiritual gifts. You must prove that you will **obey** Christ before you can use your gifts. Do you let yourself be used by Christ for loving other people? Other gifts will appear as you let Christ love other people through you so that you can continue to love. The way to get these gifts is through **obeying** Christ.

The Lord is wise enough that He does not give you gifts until you are mature to use them. But, there are two gifts that we believe every Christian has. What do you think these gifts are? You read about them in Romans 12:1-8.

Look at the spiritual gifts listed in Romans 12:1-8. Choose and write the two you think you have and can use now.

(1) The gift of \_\_\_\_\_ . (2) The gift of \_\_\_\_\_ .

It doesn't matter how poor with money you feel or how rich. You can still **give** and **serve** for Christ's benefit. Did you list these two gifts? You have every reason to believe God has given you these two gifts. You can use them now. We know God expects every Christian to give and to serve. We can know He has given us these gifts.

The gift of giving is talked about in Romans 12:8. The gift of service is talked about in Romans 12:7. The gift of giving also is in 2 Corinthians 9:7. This is the second verse you should memorize this week. Read that verse now.

What kind of giver does God love? A (Day 3) \_\_\_\_\_ giver.

Remember the title for today. The way to get and use the gifts is obedience. God gives gifts to the people He can trust to use them for Him.

Read Romans 12:1-3 (KJV) again to help you understand what obedience requires. Here are some important words from these verses.

TRANSFORMED CONFORMED SACRIFICE THINK HIGHLY  
WILL OF GOD

Two of these say in Romans 12:1-3 what we **must not do** if you are obeying God. The other three say what you **must do**. Try to write these five correctly.

WHAT YOU MUST NOT DO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

WHAT YOU MUST DO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Now check what you have written by this example.

WHAT YOU MUST NOT DO: Be conformed to this world.

WHAT YOU MUST DO:

Think too highly of yourself.

Give yourself as a living sacrifice.

Be transformed (by the living Christ).

Do the will of God.

First Peter 1:13-16 also talks about obey. Read those verses now. What are you supposed in verse 14 (KJV) to turn from?

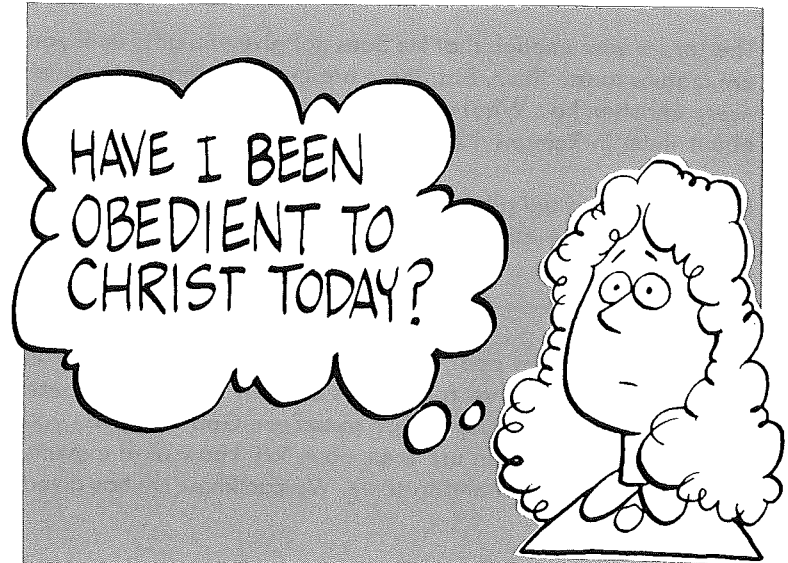
\_\_\_\_\_, caused by your former state of \_\_\_\_\_.

You might have written **lusts** or **desires** or **passions**—depending on what Bible you are using. All of these are caused by **ignorance** (not knowing).

But now you know. Christ living in you and controlling you helps you know God's plan. You are learning as a member of the church more about what Christ wants you to become. The same word is used four times in 1 Peter 1:15-16 (KJV). What is that word? \_\_\_\_\_?

Why is **holy** living important to a person to whom God has given gifts?

Can you imagine what would happen if a person tried to use God's gifts the wrong way? Now here is another question you can think about. Do you struggle with the idea of being **obedient** to Christ? Can you list some reasons for the struggle? What parts of your life are having to change that you are struggling with?



## WEEK 3: CHURCH SERVICE

### DAY 4: THE GIFT OF SERVICE

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 16:15-16; Acts 9:36-42.

You have two gifts that God has given you to show other people Christ's love.

(1) The gift of \_\_\_\_\_ . (2) The gift of \_\_\_\_\_ .

Romans 12:7-8 talks about the gift of **service** and the gift of **giving**. Romans 12:6 talks about "we all have different gifts that God has given us." Who decides what gifts each person in the church should get? You should remember from your memory verse last week. It is 1 Corinthians 12:18. Can you write it on these lines?

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Check to be sure you remember 1 Corinthians 12:18. See if you remember 1 Peter 4:10 and 2 Corinthians 9:7. These are your two verses for this week.

Read these two Bible passages. Put an X beside the ones that talk about the gift of service or ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 1:4-8    \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 16:15-16

The gift of **service** (in 1 Cor. 16:15-16) is sometimes called the

gift of administration. The word really means a person that serves at tables (a **waiter**). It is used to describe any **activity** that we do because of Christ's love working in us.

Serving the Lord in simple things is obedience. Christ was willing to wash the feet for His disciples. The **same** Christ is now Lord of **your life**. How can you expect Him to give you bigger things to do if you are not faithful to Him in small things?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-8. Do you get the idea that you have some of these gifts as soon as you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior? The "waiting" is for Jesus to come the second time, not for gifts.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:15-16. These verses say that the Stephanas family is doing a job. What job are they doing?

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Whom were they serving? \_\_\_\_\_

The word **saints** (1 Cor. 16:15, KJV) means Christians, the called-out people, not just people that are "super Christians." How do these verses say we are to act to people who are using the gift of service. \_\_\_\_\_

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We are supposed to follow those people who are using the gift of service. Now read a beautiful story about another Christian who used the gift of service. Read Acts 9:36-42. Write the way Dorcas used her gift.

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**You** have the **gift of service**. You may not use it by sewing for widows, as Dorcas did. You do have that gift. Christ's living in you will first teach you the importance of serving other people. The gift will be the foundation for all of your ministry in the church now and in the future. You can begin to use it **today**.

Pray about the answer to this question: **IN WHAT WAY TODAY DOES CHRIST WANT YOU TO SERVE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH?**

Now do some checking on yourself. How are you doing as a Christian? You have the Lord's promise (John 10:28) that you will never lose your relationship with Christ. It is good to check on yourself sometimes.

You have been using your SURVIVAL KIT for almost three weeks now. How many days in the three weeks have you had a Quiet Time. Did it include prayer and Bible study? Circle the number of days.

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20

How many Bible verses have you memorized? Underline the verses you can say now.

Psalms 119:11          Romans 12:4-5          1 Peter 4:10

2 Corinthians 5:17    1 Corinthians 12:18    2 Corinthians 9:7

Remember the hand and fingers? The hand is \_\_\_\_\_, the thumb is \_\_\_\_\_. (If you need to check yourself, look

in the first part of the SURVIVAL KIT.)

Do you realize more about Christ living in you and controlling you than you did

three weeks ago? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Are Bible study and prayer more important to you now than they were three weeks

ago? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Are you becoming closer in your relationships with other church members.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

I encourage you to do something about it if you answered **no** to any of these questions. Find help from your pastor or a friend. Pray and ask God to show you His will for your life.





# WEEK 3: CHURCH SERVICE

## DAY 5: THE GIFT OF GIVING

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-15.

You have two spiritual gifts you can use now. Both gifts (skills) are ways you can let Christ's love show through you.

Yesterday you learned about the gift of \_\_\_\_\_.

The gift of **giving**, like the gift of **service**, is part of the way Christ lets His love show through a person. This kind of love helps the **needs of the Body** (church), not just support of special activities.

Don't misunderstand and think that giving is only a gift God gives to rich people. It is a gift to be used by **all** believers.

**"Giving"** is a Bible word to explain A PERSON'S PLANNING TO ALLOW SOMEONE ELSE TO OWN SOMETHING THAT HE NOW OWNS. Giving is a change of ownership. This happens because of the Holy Spirit's working in us. When you realize Jesus owns everything you have, it is not hard to let something go to meet the needs of **His** body, the church. You will have problems only when you continue to think something is yours. The way to be successful is to **let the Holy Spirit lead you** to give what you have. You do this, believing faithfully that God will take care of your needs. God can take care of your future needs if He leads you to give.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Do you think Christians in these verses could 'afford' to give a lot? Why or why not?

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Did you write words like *poor, poverty, trouble*? Members of the church in Macedonia were not rich, but they gave.

There is one verse you should know by memory before you read the next chapter in 2 Corinthians. Can you write 2 Corinthians 9:7 on these lines?

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Now read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. (Be sure to check your memorization.) What two verses in verses 6-10 talk strongly about God's taking care of your giving? Verse \_\_\_\_\_. Verse \_\_\_\_\_.

Verses 8 and 10 give the answer. What is the reason in verse 11 for God giving to you?

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Your giving is possible because God gives to you. Many people will thank God because of your giving. Second Corinthians 9:13 says that other people will see the giving and will know you are really Christians. Who will get the biggest blessing from your

using the gift of giving?

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Many people will give glory to God because Christians give to help one another. What commitment (promise) does Christ want you to make as you use this gift of giving? (**Remember:** He is more interested in your giving to obey Him than in **how much** you give.)

You become mature in your special gifts when you let Christ use them. You will soon learn that there are other spiritual gifts in your life. God gives them so that your service might increase in showing His love to other people.

You had a hand that could do nothing when you were born. You later learned how to hold things. Later again your hand became more mature and learned to write. Then your mind learned to control your hand to work together to write a letter or in a book. Your hands are **now skilled tools**. They are able to do many things your mind tells them to do.

You become mature through some activities as a member in the body of Christ (church). You find more things ready for you to do after you are matured. Christ will show you other gifts (skills) that you have as you learn to use the gifts of **giving** and **serving**. He will show you what He has given you to increase His love showing and working through you to other people.

All of these things depend on one thing—YOUR OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST! The way to continue growing as you mature is to continue to obey Him. Serve and give. Use your spiritual gifts and skills. It will become clear that Christ is the person who gives you the abilities. He is the one who lives in you and loves through

you. The other things depend on God's plan for you.

Just use for now what you have. Trust the Master (Christ) for the other things. This is a brief study about these things. You will want to learn in the months and the years in the future much more about the spiritual gifts.\*

What you need to do now is to focus on the next part of your SURVIVAL KIT. **Two natures** (personalities) live in you. Learn about them now. They will be with you for the rest of your life.

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\***This Gift Is Mine** by Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr. (Broadman Press, 1974) is recommended for your study when that time comes.

