

# Sermon Discussion Guide




## How Then Shall We Live: The Strategy

1 Corinthians 12:1-26

Ray Cortese, November 12 & 13, 2016

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-26. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Elections often produce grandiose ideas about the future, but the truth is we've got problems. What are some of the problems facing our world, and how might those problems be addressed by the church more effectively than by any one man or human government?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

#### THE STRATEGY: CREATE THE FAMILY

- 3 *A family with a common purpose.* Paul tells the Corinthians not to forget how they came to profess Christ as Lord. How did the Holy Spirit open your eyes to see Jesus as Lord?
- 4 Is it easier to convert children, teenagers, young adults, adults, retirees, or senior citizens? Why?

- 5 Discuss the following quote: “If you find a turtle on a fence post what do you know?”
- 6 *A family who belong to each other.* The church is one body with many parts. What are the many parts (different kinds of people) at Seven Rivers?
- 7 Like the woman volunteering in nursery with a Japanese man, you might find yourself in the same family with someone you don’t like. Who might that be for you? Ray said, “This is the church’s moment in our culture.” Explain.
- 8 *A family who need each other.* Just like it doesn’t work for a liver to exist on its own, it doesn't work for us to try and do life apart from the body of Christ. In what ways do you need the church (not the organization, but the people) today?

#### THE STRATEGY: EQUIP THE FAMILY

- 9 *Everyone in God’s family is given spiritual gifts.* Our gifts are meant to be used for the common good. Does the wellbeing of the church matter more to you than your own wellbeing? If so, what does it look like to live out that conviction?
- 10 *What are the gifts?* Ray summarized spiritual gifts under three headings. What were they, and how do they relate to Jesus?
- 11 *How do you figure out your gifts?* Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is(are)? If you don’t, then how would you answer the following questions?
  - What are you good at?
  - What are you passionate about?
  - What opportunities God has put before you?

Have you ever called a gift out of someone? Has anyone ever called a gift out of you?

### Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?