

**DISCUSSION IDEAS**  
**ORDER IN THE MEETING OF THE CHURCH**

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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**KEY TRUTHS:**

**GOD IS A GOD OF ORDER – NOT CHAOS**

**WE ARE A FAMILY – THE FAMILY OF GOD**

**GOD IS CHARACTERIZED BY AGAPE LOVE – AS HIS FAMILY,  
THIS LOVE SHOULD CHARACTERIZE ALL WE DO ALSO**

**LOVE CREATES UNITY – DIVISIVENESS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE**

**GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF US A ROLE WITHIN HIS FAMILY**

**GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF US A SPECIAL GIFT TO  
HELP BUILD UP HIS FAMILY**

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: THANKSGIVING HOME DINNERS vs. EATING  
AT A RESTAURANT.**

Is there anything wrong with expecting to be served at church, rather than being those who serve?

Look at 1 Cor. 12:7 and 12:14-27.

What are the key ideas in these verses?

How would you apply these in your life?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

Now re-read v. 12 – Why were apostles, evangelists, prophets, shepherds and teachers given to the church?

Who is to be prepared for the work of God?

Discuss the picture here of what the church is to be like. What is the role of love in all this?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: HOW CAN I KNOW WHAT MY GIFT IS?**

Do you yourself really have a grace-gift?

Look again at Eph. 4:7-8 and 1 Cor. 12:7. What do these verses make very clear?

What gifts are described in the Word? Look at the verses and listings in the hand-out that was sent at the same time as these notes.

Discuss how you can discover your gift.

Note: there is a self inventory to help with this which can be found by Googling "Sustainablechurch.org". Their inventory page is at

<https://form.jotform.com/quoir/grace-gifts-inventory>

What is the importance of feedback from others about my gift?

How can you develop your ability to use your gift?

Can that even happen without practice?

Can that happen without making mistakes?

(Does God allow mistakes?)

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What is the effect on the church if I do not bother using my gift?

**NOTE:**

Be aware that a Grace Gifts Seminar will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: ROLES AND ORDER.**

Discuss how the idea of being part of one body applies to how each one of us is to behave.

Is the tip of the little finger important?

Is it supposed to act independently of the body?

Is it supposed to "rule the roost"?

What does a position of leadership say about that person's value?

If I am to submit to leadership, what does that say about my value?

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

**Our Grace Church Elders:** Pray for our elders as they seek how to do their part in God's plan.

**Gettises:** Pray for the Gettis family as they continue to get settled in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Cindy writes:

Please pray the Lord provides us with a vehicle that is reliable and affordable.

Please continue to pray for Elba (*a friend Cindy has met*). She said she'd like to go to church and we found one we like so I'd like if she could come with us. We found a church that was extremely kind and welcoming and had solid Bible teaching and beautiful worship. They meet at ESEPA on Sundays.

**Shelter Valley:** Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

**Home Groups:** Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

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Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Pray that each one of us would seek to learn how to use our individual spiritual gift(s) to build up the Body of Christ.

**Pearsons:** Continue to pray for John and Bobbie Pearson. Their son, John Caleb, has advanced cancer. John Caleb and wife Cheri are now staying at a rental condo near John and Bobbie in Forest, VA. Their 4 young children, under 12, will be flown down from Alaska to stay with them. The 4 older children will come down from time to time, staying with John and Bobbie. Thanks for prayers during this stressful time.

**Barangonan Island:** Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as the Ingvoldestads get settled here in Ramona and adjust to a new stage in their life.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as Binders make decisions about their new life in Germany.

Pray for wisdom, clear understanding of God's Word and continued obedience to the Holy Spirit on the part of the island church leaders.

Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

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**Persecuted Believers:**

Let's not forget to uphold our fellow believers around the world who are experiencing real and intense persecution for following Jesus.

**THIS WEEK:**

1. **India:**

Hindu extremists attacked believers at a Christian peace festival on Feb. 24 in New Delhi, injuring many.

The extremists used iron rods, sticks and axes to destroy most of the electronic equipment before working their way into the crowd.

Although the organizers had received approval for police protection, no police arrived until after the Hindu extremists had fled.

Please pray for those who were injured and also for those who attacked these believers. Pray for wisdom among the Christians who are considering legal action.

2. **Malaysia:**

Pastor Raymond Koh, a highly effective evangelist, was abducted on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Despite offering a large reward, no one has come forward with information and no ransom demands have been made. The family therefore fear that the pastor has been murdered.

Pray for his wife and family, as well as for his welfare and release if still alive.

3. **Nigeria:**

A group of Fulani men attacked a village recently in Kaduna, Nigeria, killing four people and injuring two adults and a young child.

A woman named Lydia suffered gunshot wounds to her back, right arm and abdomen, while one-year-old Confidence was struck in both feet and on her hip. Williams Aluwong Jonathan, his wife and their 3-month-old baby were outside their home when the Fulani began shooting. His wife was shot to death as she ran for the house with their baby. Williams was shot 15 times in the arm but was able to protect their baby from harm.

Please pray for these folks, thanking God that they survived and also for quick healing physically, emotionally and spiritually.