

Accurately Handling  
**The Word of Truth**

*By Gary Gilbertson*

**1 Cor. 12:1-3**

*Part 3*



“...and that no man can **say**...” A determined choice to speak based on personal thought.

You say it because you know what it means when you say it.

“...Jesus is the Lord...” *kurios Iesou* = controller; owner

-Emperor worship started with Julius Caesar (B.C. 49) and became the Roman state religion where all Emperors were acclaimed as a ‘god’ with the words *Kurios Caesar!*

-Polycarp executed for treason for saying *Kurios Iesou*.

-“Nero, Lord of all the earth”

“The imperial cult was...essential to Rome’s survival and whose neglect was therefore treasonous.”

-Tridates of Naples – “If he is willing to be bound thus, (*kurios Nero*) he must give up being bound to God. He who binds him thus (Nero) takes the place of deity.”

Saying “Jesus is the Lord”, and meaning it, had serious consequences in 1<sup>st</sup> century Corinth.

“...but by the Holy Spirit.” “...and that no man can express his personal thought and choice based on his mental activity, reflection and cognition that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.”

...it is truly not possible for any one in 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman Corinth to verbally say “Jesus Lord” by their own determined choice through mental reflection and cognition, unless they were inspired and motivated by the Holy Spirit.

Summary: I Cor. 12:1-3 is not talking about “spiritual gifts”. Instead, it is talking about “ritualistic curse formulas” which *Paul* calls “*pneumatikos*”.

*pneumatikos* = “the results produced by the action of spirits”

*Pneumatikos* does not mean “spiritual gifts”.

I Cor. 12:4 “**Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.**”

“Now concerning...” or “Now...” signals a change of subject.

“diversities” = *diarsis* = “distributions according to a plan” not “differences”.

Rom. 12:6; Eph.4:7,

“gifts” = v. 1 says ‘gifts’ (*pneumatiokos*); v. 4 says ‘gifts’ (*charismata*)

*Chrismata* is a compound word:

**charis** = grace; Five aspects of “grace”, God’s favor is only one aspect.

God’ actions through man. Outward enablements to speak or act.

Rom. 1:5, 12:6, I Cor. 1:4; 3:10, II Cor. 1:12; 8:1, Eph. 3:7; 3:8,

ITim. 1:12

**ma** = the results produced by the actions of the noun.

**The results produced by the actions of the grace given to us.**

If grace is active in us, there must be results, not only belief.

**ta** = plural

You have grace, now grace wants to express itself through you in speech and action.

“but the same Spirit” = One Triune God not many gods. (*pantheism*) ICor. 8:5

“Romans believed that a different god represented every object as well as every event in a person’s life.” William Simmons, Peoples of the New Testament World

**V. 5 “And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.”**

administrations = the work of a servant

Opposite of this world’s idea of ‘administration’.

Lord = the lawful owner of servants and property

\*The lawful owner of his servants (John 13:13) chooses to be the servant of the ones that he owns. (Mark 10:42-45)

He is worthy to distribute “the work of a servant” to others.

V. 6 **“And there are diversities of operations, but the same God which worketh all in all.”**

Operations = *energema*

Compound word: *energeia* = the power within

*ma* = the results produced by the action of the noun

“The results produced by the action of the power of God within.”

Worketh = *energeo* means “to energize”

All in all: All the grace-expressions, administrations and operations.

in

All the individuals that the Spirit, Lord and God distribute the grace-expressions to.

v. 7 **“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”**

Manifestation = “the making of something open to the senses; to exhibit”

The invisible Spirit “exhibits” Himself through the speech and actions of people that make Him apparent to others.

Is given = “to commit into one’s care to be administered”

I Pet. 4:10 “good stewards of the manifold grace of God” Stewards must not do what they want with the manifestations of the Spirit, nor can they neglect them without consequences.

To profit withal = Ignore “withal”.

Profit = “toward the expedient” (necessary)

\*The manifestation of the Spirit that is the greatest is the one that is necessary to the particular circumstance.