

LIVING TRUTH

*The  
Good  
LIFE*

MESSAGE GUIDE

## MESSAGE GUIDE

*This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.*

*The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on this message given by Brett McBride*

*We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer...sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.*

*As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Brett's message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.*

# MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

## The Good Life Series

### PART 1 – A HEALTHY BODY EXERCISES

#### *1 Corinthians 12 & 13*

1. Discuss “New Year’s Resolutions”. What are the most common resolutions? How long do we keep them?

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2. What about our ‘Spiritual Bodies?’ To understand some of the dynamics involved, let’s look at the Corinthian Church

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3. What specifically were some of the issues within the Corinthian Church?

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4. Because of the dynamics at work in the Corinthian Church, how does Paul refer to them?

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5. But this is Paul’s statement to the church in Corinth. Read and consider: 1 Corinthians 1-4

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6. How is it that we can be graced with all gifts from God—and yet be as Paul calls the church in Corinth—worldly, immature, mere infants, or utterly defeated?

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7. Read and Consider 1 Corinthians 12:1-6

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8. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

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9. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 12:7

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### Final Thoughts

Corinth, as with Toronto, surrounded by the culture and environment, some of the pervading cultural influences were creeping into the Church. He has equipped us with a gift—to be

exercised. At Salvation God gave you saving Grace—but He also equipped you with a serving Grace! So that we get to participate with God at work! A Healthy Church exercises their gifts. We need to get off our Pew and unto our Purpose!

### The Good Life Series

## PART 2 – A HEALTHY BODY IS UNIFIED

### *1 Corinthians 12 & 13*

1. We are reminded that none of us embody who God is on our own—That is why we need to be in a community, a Church, learning together.

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2. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. Also read and consider 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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3. Read and Consider 1 Corinthians 12:15

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4. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 12:18

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5. Paul also directs our thinking: 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

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6. Read and consider: 1 Corinthians 12:24b-27

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### Final Thoughts

What is it that the Corinthian Church wrestled with?

What is it that the Early Church wrestled with?

What is it that the Modern Church wrestles with?

**We can unwittingly get into what I describe as a ‘Christian Ghetto mindset’** [Ghetto meaning isolated or segregated]

We cannot be a war with our own body – because then we are at war with God, who placed each part of His body exactly as he wanted it to be. We should focus on what we have in common – not on our differences! **We are a Body of Many Parts, Where Every Part Matters And Every Member Cares.**

**The Good Life Series**

**PART 3 – A HEALTHY BODY  
IS A LOVING BODY**

*1 Corinthians 12 & 13*

1. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 13

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2. Paul draws our attention to 3 types of believer; who all have the same problem.

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3. Read and consider: 1 Corinthians 13:2

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4. Read and consider: 1 Corinthians 13:3

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5. Read and consider: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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6. **The Corinthian Church was divided and immature because it wasn't operating from the heart of God. It was missing His Love.**

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7. Read and consider: 1 Corinthians 13:11

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**Final Thoughts**

Paul has emphasized the different gifts that share the same source; The different members who carry out different functions, are part of the same body. Now he turns his attention to practicing our gifts— as one—in the Most Excellent Way!

## LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

*This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.*

*Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.*

# LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

## The Good Life Series

### PART 1 – A HEALTHY BODY EXERCISES

#### *1 Corinthians 12 & 13*

1. “New Year’s Resolutions” What are the most common resolutions? Weight; Health; Financial Management How long do we keep them? Ever decreasing % as weeks go by.
2. The Corinthian Church was:
  - Cosmopolitan and in an influential city.
  - Corinth was the centre of commerce and trade for that region.
  - Because of Greek influences Corinth was Pantheistic in nature with 12 different pagan deities worshipped.
  - Sexual immorality was rampant.

There are similarities with Toronto:

- An influential city.
  - A centre of commerce.
  - Many religions worshipped.
  - Immorality celebrated.
3.
    - Divisions within the body.
    - Sexual immorality—not only prevalent, but even celebrated in the church.
    - Lawsuits—Christian brothers disagreeing and suing one another. Going to the ‘world’ to sort out their disputes.
    - Idolatry
    - Spiritual Gifts gone wild—disorderly services.

4. Paul refers to them as being:
  - Worldly
  - Mere infants in Christ
  - Immature
  - Completely defeated
5. It begs the question? If God has graced them? If God has enriched them in every way? If they don’t lack any spiritual gift? Why are there so many issues in the church today?
6. In 1 Corinthians Chapters 12 & 13 Paul gives us some useful instructions for us in our journey towards becoming a healthy expression of the Church in the midst of the world.
  1. The Equipment to Exercise
  2. The Importance of Exercise
  3. The Purpose of Exercise.
7. **1. The Equipment to Exercise**  
Concerning Spiritual Gifts. A characteristic of a Spirit Gifted ministry is that it will proclaim and magnify Jesus Christ as Lord! Secondly—**He draws our attention to the source of these gifts.**
8. **2. The Importance of Exercise**  
We are all equipped with a gift so that we can exercise it! Unfortunately, sometimes we like the IDEA of exercise more than the actual doing it! Read and consider 2 Timothy 1:6-7 Maybe YOUR gift needs to be fanned into flame again. If you are not using it, it can become unhealthy and underdeveloped.

9. **3. The Purpose of Exercise**

That is the Good Life: Serving for the Common Good of Others. Read also and consider: Ephesians 4:11-16

Go to Final Thoughts.

The Good Life Series

**PART 2 – A HEALTHY BODY IS UNIFIED**

*1 Corinthians 12 & 13*

1. Today we will look at 3 different aspects:
  1. **A Body of Many Parts**
  2. **Where Every Part Matters**
  3. **And every member cares**
2. **1. A Body of Many Parts.** God looks and says, “Yes they are swindling, and lying, and cheating, yes they are drunkards and immoral, but they are all desperately looking for me, and I for them. And watch Paul: I will change them into something new. When I reside in them they won’t need alcohol, or sex, or possessions to find satisfaction – I will be their satisfaction.”
3. **2. Where Every Part Matters.** Paul begins to gently display how every part matters. Paul goes on to say that if we continue in a ‘ghetto mindset’ and ignore certain parts of our body, there will be an impact on our ability to function, which will be limited or impaired.
4. Every part of the body is important if for no other reason than that it was God Himself who placed us exactly where He wants us to be.

5. When we ‘judge; others, we may not realize that we are unwittingly judging a part of the body that God Himself has arranged.

6. **3. Every Member Cares.** We are ONE BODY—united by ONE SPIRIT—by our Faith in Christ, It isn’t a creed or article that makes us One—it is the Holy Spirit.  
**We are to have equal concern for One Another.**

Go to Final Thoughts.

The Good Life Series

**PART 3 – A HEALTHY BODY IS A LOVING BODY**

*1 Corinthians 12 & 13*

1. Paul has emphasized the different gifts that share the same source; The different members who carry out different functions, are part of the same body.
2. **1. The Spiritually Gifted Immature.** One of the main challenges for the Corinthian Church was that they were over emphasizing the gift of tongues—and their meetings were disorderly and wild.
3. **2. The Genius Immature.** Knowledge puffs up—but love builds up. People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care. You may know a lot about the Bible, but if it’s disconnected from the Love of Christ—nobody cares!



4. **3. The Sacrificial & Socially Justice Immature.**  
The Gifted Gong Show, the genius who nobody cared about, and the generous who gained nothing—all make us ask the following question: What is our motive? Where is this activity coming from? In all 3 examples the problem isn't the gift—it's the person! The Heart of their gift—was detached from Love. It was a cold heart—a dead heart.
5. **2. The God Who is Love. We have this read at our weddings, but who of us would be comfortable to put our name by this list?**
6. Paul was disciplining the Corinthian Church because they had strayed from love into disputes, quarrels, unforgiveness, lust and idolatry.
7. The Lord is saying **GROW UP!**  
It's time to put the childish ways behind you.  
It's time to get your eyes on Jesus – and discover HIS love,

**Go to Final Thoughts.**