

**THE FUNCTION OF ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΙΚΑ, ΧΑΡΙΣΜΑΤΑ, ΔΙΑΚΟΝΙΑΙ
AND ΕΝΕΡΓΗΜΑΤΑ IN THE CHURCH
ACCORDING TO 1COR 12**

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Abstract. As a contribution to the emerging dialogue between Protestant and Pentecostal academic theology this paper is discussing the question about the constitutive role of charismatic manifestations for the church in Corinth and possibly that Paul uses in general terms. By verifying the meaning of the key terms that Paul uses to describe charismatic manifestations in Corinth and by analyzing the application of the parable about the body on the church the conclusion is drawn that church local and general can be understood as a charismatic fellowship. According to Paul, manifestations of the Spirit are based on mutual giving and receiving of those who are *καλιῆ κτίσις* and were gifted by the Spirit. This is in line with the Pauline understanding of the church as *κοινωνία*, as a fellowship of giving and receiving.

Keywords: Spiritual Gifts, Church, New Creation, Koinonia

Spiritual gifts and their role in the church – this question is occupying the church in my country – Slovakia with new intensity in recent years. Religious freedom and especially the freedom of movement exposed all traditional churches across the ecumenical spectrum to an increased charismatic influence. Churches in Slovakia are struggling with this phenomenon. Many are witnessing splits and emergence of new independent fellowships. Lack of theological reflection on both sides – on the side of traditional churches as well as on the side of the emerging charismatic groups is significant and contributes to the tensions. In response to this in 2012 the Catholic University in Ružomberok, Slovakia launched a research project “Pentecostalism in contemporary religious and social context”. This project aims to enter in discussion with the emerging critical Pentecostal studies that are being published in recent years.

The Apostle Paul writes in detail about spiritual manifestations in 1Cor 12-14. He reacts to the problems related to the content and form of gatherings in the Corinthian church that were reported to him as described in 1Cor 11:18-19. Chapters 12-14 provide a large amount of information about the Christian gatherings in Corinth. There is an ongoing discussion as to what extent is it possible to draw a general picture of Pauline churches based on these chapters.¹ On

¹ In agreement with others we consider chapters 12-14 as one literal unit including chapter 13. Schrage points out that it is rather problematic to draw a general picture of Pauline churches