

Series "Called To Be Saints"
"Unity With Diversity"
1 Corinthians 12:12-31
Part-21

"Unity is not uniformity. Unity comes from within and is a spiritual grace, while uniformity is the result of pressure from without."

Ephesians 4:3-6

Family, flock, an army, building, a bride, but Paul uses the illustration of the body, how it is made up of so many parts. Terms over again, "One body, many members."

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Church, Through The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit, Enjoys Unity And Through God's Giftings, Diversity."

- 1. Verses 12-13 Oneness In The Body**
- 2. Verses 14-18 Diversity In The Body**
- 3. Verses 19-21 Mutual Need In The Body**
- 4. Verses 22-26 Importance In The Body**
- 5. Verses 27-31 God's Lordship In The Body**

1. Verses 12-13 Oneness In The Body

1 Corinthians 12:12 For Context - Paul has introduced the truth that every believer is gifted. **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** every Christian has at least one spiritual gift. **varieties of gifts, varieties of ministries** (Opportunities), **varieties of effects** (Energies) **for the common good.** (Bless believers)

Every believer has a gift that is to be used to bless the church. Now Paul says **we need to work together.**
even as the body is one and yet has many members,

and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, That every part of the body is connected to the whole body.

Our bodies function based upon organization: Need to be coordinated.
Our bodies are growing and changing:

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, The word **baptized** – "*to dip, submerge, to dye.*"

The moment that a person trusts Jesus Christ, they are submerged into the body of Christ regardless of their background. **Regenerated, indwelt, filled, and baptized by the Spirit!**

The Baptism of the Spirit, I belong to Christ's body, Filling of the Holy Spirit, my body belongs to Christ.

We can be Baptized by the Holy Spirit and yet never become a spiritual Christian.

and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Not only are we placed by the Holy Spirit, but we are also given the Holy Spirit. **Romans 8:9**

2. Verses 14-18 Diversity In The Body

1 Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

Paul now looks at the image of the body in a different way.

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members,

He now focuses on the differences that are in the one body.

Verses 15-16 Each Function Is Important: 1 Corinthians 12:15

"The body does not function as many members but many members function as one body."

1 Corinthians 12:16

We can start to belittle what we do in the body of Christ.

Verses 17-18 Each Function Must Be Performed:

1 Corinthians 12:17

We suffer in the church by the curse of imitation! (Duplicates)

1 Corinthians 12:18

God Assigns Each Function: But now God has placed the members, each one of them, This is an amazing statement, that it was God who placed them.

in the body, just as He desired. That means that in this church, we have the people that are needed to get the job done.

This one verse can liberate us forever from jealousy!

3. Verses 19-21 Mutual Need In The Body

1 Corinthians 12:19 That if all the members were the same, there would be no body.

1 Corinthians 12:20-21

We are not to think that we don't need other ministries or that we have all that we need but that we are in need of others.

4. Verses 22-26 Importance In The Body

1 Corinthians 12:22 On the contrary, It is the opposite, that those members that we think are weaker are all the more necessary.

Importance Is Not Based Upon Appearance: seem (not so) to be weaker are necessary;

weaker - "of weakness" are necessary;

1 Corinthians 12:23 and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor,

and our less presentable members become much more presentable,
We make our bodies look better.

Verses 24-26 Importance Is Equally Distributed:

1 Corinthians 12:24

There are folks behind the scenes that keep this Pastor and ministries afloat through prayer!

1 Corinthians 12:25 so that there may be no division in the body,
There should be no conflict, superiority-inferiority.

but that the members may have the same care for one another.
There should not be this competitive attitude in the church.

1 Corinthians 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it;

This should be the heart of the church; that we empathize with those that hurt.

5. Verses 27-31 God's Lordship In The Body

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

Now *We are individuals that are all different but important because we are all part of one body that functions.*

you are Christ's body;

Every true believer is part of this one universal body.

and individually members of it. We are all part of His body.

1 Corinthians 12:28

(Notice it is God) And God has appointed in the church,

- 1. Apostles** - *"one who is sent, with a commission, to send away"*
(Apostles were to guide the infant church in ways it ought to go)

Every Christian is called to go. To be sent with a commission.
John 17:18

Apostles of the church. They were missionaries or sent on special errands of the church. They were secondary apostles of the church. Barnabas, Timothy, Silas and so on.

The 12 Apostles of Christ. Which included after the death of Judas, Matthias.

- 2. Prophets** - *"to stand in the counsel of God, one who foretells, but is one who is forth-telling."* (Those who were gifted to guard the infant church in what it ought to know.)

There is the office of the prophet — Canonical, who spoke the verbal Word, equal to the written Word. We see them in the NT working in conjunction with the apostles. **Ephesians 2:20; 3:6; 1 Cor 12:28**

There is the gift of prophecy. When we speak of prophecy, we speak of the speaking forth of the Word of God.

We are so limited on what we think prophecy to be.

1 Corinthians 14:3

edification - one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness.

exhortation - a calling near, summons, entreaty, encouragement, persuasive discourse, stirring address, - instructive.

consolation - any address, whether made for the purpose of persuading, or of calming and consoling.

- 3. teachers** – one who opens the treasures of God's Word. They take the Word and make it understandable and also application of the Word.

Pastors are called to feed the flock. Paul told Timothy **2 Timothy 4:2**

then miracles, this was used by God to authenticate the message that was preached and spoken.

then gifts of healings, the healing of various types of illness and disease.

helps, Meeting the needs of others.

administrations, It means "*to steer, to govern.*"

various kinds of tongues. 1 Corinthians 14

1 Corinthians 12:29-31 And I show you a still more excellent way.

I believe this is love and sacrifice. **1 Corinthians 13**

Application:

1. Oneness In The Body: Baptism of the Holy Spirit
2. Diversity In The Body: God's plan to be different
3. Mutual Need In The Body: No independence
4. Importance In The Body: Everyone is important
5. God's Rule In The Body: God Lord of the body