

The Church – the Body of Christ and the Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:12–31

1 *The human body is a picture of Christ and of His church*

- a. The Spirit baptizes us into one body, Christ Himself
- b. The Spirit causes us to drink of Himself

2 *Point 1: Some less gifted feel they are unimportant to the body*

- a. Each member (body part) is necessary
- b. Each member has an essential function
- c. Each member is set in the body as God wills
- d. Each member is distinct, but together there is only one body

12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

19 If they were all one part, where would the body be?

20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

<p>3 Point 2: <i>Some more gifted feel they are more important to the body</i></p> <p>a. The weaker members (less gifted) are actually more necessary</p> <p>b. The unrepresentable parts are treated with greater honour</p>	<p>21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”</p> <p>22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,</p> <p>23 And the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty,</p>
<p>4 Point 3: <i>God has put both the presentable and unrepresentable into one body</i></p> <p>a. To keep the members from clashing</p> <p>b. To create a natural care for one another</p>	<p>24 While our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it,</p> <p>25 So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.</p> <p>26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.</p>
<p>5 Point 4: <i>Each is a part, a member of the body of Christ and has his own place in it</i></p> <p>a. God sets and gifts each member in the church</p>	<p>27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.</p> <p>28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.</p>

<p>b. All do not have the same gift</p> <p>6 Point 5: <i>Each is to covet the very best gifts</i></p>	<p>29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?</p> <p>30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues ? Do all interpret?</p> <p>31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.</p>
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