

THE BODY IS ONE  
I COR. 12:12-27

Introduction:

A. The gifts in the church at Corinth were for its mutual edification.

1. v7.
2. No single gift was to profit an individual.

B. The church is one body. v12.

1. This does not refer to a universal church!
2. Every Scriptural church is the Body of Christ.

I. THE BODY OF CHRIST, A WORK OF GOD. V13

A. "for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free."

1. baptizo = to dip, plunge, as in dyeing a garment.
2. The reference is not to immersion in water, or immersion in Spirit, but plunged into the Body, by the Spirit.
3. The "one Spirit," (verses preceding), has by His (God's) will set us in His body.
  - a. Acts 2:47 "And the Lord added to the church daily, such as should be saved."
  - b. added = prostithemi - to set, place or lay towards or in addition to; to put one thing to another.
4. God has no favorite people in the church.
  - a. Jews or Greeks, bond or free.
5. The source of life is the same for every body member.
  - a. "and have been all made to drink into one Spirit
  - b. The human body lives because of one spirit in it. It energizes all body members.
6. The body is one, not many.
  - a. v14.

II. WITHDRAWING FROM THE BODY. v15-19

- A. Dissatisfaction with one's gift.
  - 1. The withdrawal of the foot. v15.
  - 2. The withdrawal of the ear. v16.
  
- B. The body needs only a certain amount of each gift.
  - 1. v17.
  
- C. It is God's business to set gifts in the church.
  - 1. v18.
  - 2. "as it hath pleased Him."
  
- D. If every church member had the same gift, how could the church function?
  - 1. v19.
  - 2. The way it is. v20.

III. THE GREATEST NEEDS OF THE BODY. v21-22

- A. The gifts are all necessary and needed.
  - 1. v21.
  
- B. The "feeble" members are necessary. v22.
  - 1. feeble = asthenes - without strength or energy, infirm, the most delicate members are indispensable.

IV. THE MOST HONORABLE GIFTS IN THE CHURCH.

- A. The most important gifts are the gifts that are the least attractive.
  - 1. v23.
  - 2. "The uncomely organs of the body that we consider devoid of honor, are the very parts we invest with special honor."
  - 3. The parts which do not look beautiful have a deeper beauty in the work that they do.

B. God put the human body together.

1. v24.

2. Therefore the beautiful need no adornment.

3. God has combined the various parts of the body, he has established a harmony in the body, giving special honor to its apparently inferior parts. God gave an important function to the parts of the body that seem the most humble.

C. God put the human body together that it might function.

1. v25. schism = division, dysfunction.

2. A human body that does not function is sick. A body member that is a constant source of pain may be excised!

D. The church is Christ's body, it has various members, and it is to function.

1. v27.

2. Members cannot withdraw because they do not like their gift.

3. Only a certain amount of each gift is necessary.

4. All gifts are necessary.

5. All gifts are honorable.

6. All gifts should perform together as a unit.

#### IV. THE CHURCH DOES NOT POSSESS, OT DOES IT NEED, THESE GIFTS TODAY!

A. United Pentecostals.

1. Big user of health insurance.

2. Why would they need health insurance?

B. First United Pentecostals.

1. String band practice.

2. If the gifts are still in force, why do they need to practice?

