

UNITY *in* GRACE

ONE CROSS, ONE SAVIOR, ONE BODY

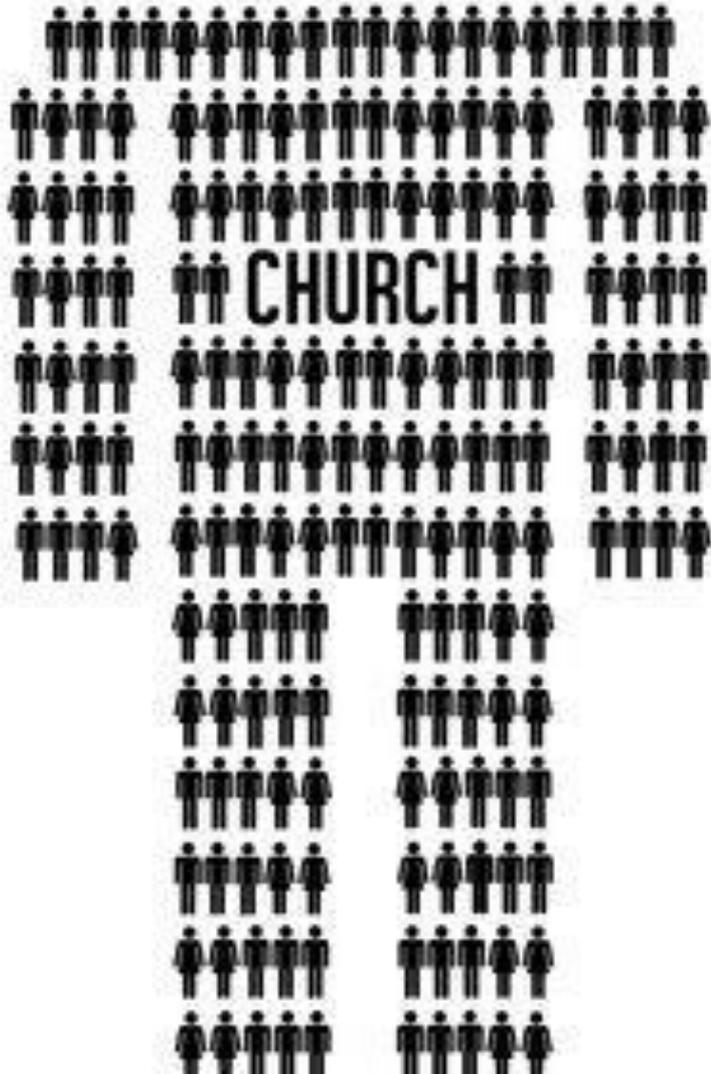
1 Corinthians





We are the
Body of Christ.

1 Cor 12:12-31



Bid Idea: The Spirit empowers us to be the body of Christ; therefore we should use our gifts for the body.

4 Preliminary truths about gifts

- i. God gave you a gift(s).
- ii. Believers will confirm your gift(s).
- iii. We should exercise our gift(s) in the context of the local church (body).
- iv. Expressing your giftedness helps unleash joy.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1. We're unified in Christ, by the Spirit (vv. 12-14; cf. Rom 8:9).

¹² For just as the body is *one* and has **many members**, and all the **members** of the body, though **many**, are *one* body, so it is with Christ

¹³ For in *one* Spirit we were all baptized into *one* body (vv. 12-13).

2. God mixed us together, for our benefit (vv. 15-27).

“But God has so *mixed up* the body... that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another” (v. 24, 25).

Three observations about individual members (vv. 15-20).

- i. Each member is equally part of the body. (vv. 15-16).
- ii. Each part has its own unique function (vv. 17, 19).
- iii. God, in sovereignty, designed one body of many parts (v. 18).

Four truths about the unified body (vv. 21-27).

- i. The members need one another (v. 21).
- ii. Weaker members are indispensable (vv. 22-23).
- iii. God gives greater honor to the members that lack it ... on purpose (v. 24b).
- iv. What affects one member affects *all members* of the body (v. 26).

One Universal Application:
Be the hands and feet of Jesus!

“Now you are the body of Christ and
individually members of it.” (v. 27).

3. Desire the *higher* gifts (vv. 28-31).

God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues ... ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

God defines “higher gifts” differently than we might ...

- i. Remember the context (vv. 14-20).
- ii. God sovereignly appoints (vv. 11, 18, 24, 28).
- iii. God gives gifts to equip the body (vv. 7, 24).
- iv. The most precious gifts are often the ones nobody sees/hears (vv. 22-24).
- v. Remember king David (1 Sam 16:7).
- vi. The *greatest* gift is the *missing* gift.

Desire the higher gifts, in humility,
seeking the expansion of God's kingdom.