

The Church at Corinth - 1 Corinthians

Chapter 12

Spiritual Gifts and The Need for Diversity in One Body

In this chapter, Paul begins to address the issue of spiritual gifts, which are from God and were very plentifully poured out on the Corinthian church. He considers their variety and use, that they were all intended for one and the same general end, the advancement of Christianity and the church's edification. He illustrates an allusion to a human body, in which all the members have a mutual relation and function, and each has its proper place and use.

Spiritual Gifts: Unity in Diversity – Verses 1-11

True Knowledge About Spiritual Gifts – Verses 1-3

- Do not be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts – verse 1 (Ro 11:25)
- As Gentiles, they were led astray to dumb idols – verse 2 (Ps 115:4-8; Jer 10:4-5)
- Speaking by the Spirit of God – verse 3 (Mat 16: 15-17)

Diversity of Gifts, but they have the Same Origin & Purpose – Verse 4-11

- The Same Spirit, Same Lord, Same God – verses 4-6 (Eph 4:11; Heb 2:4)
- Manifestation of spiritual gifts given to one, but to benefit all – verse 7 (Eph 4:12)
- The different Spiritual Gifts – verses 8-11 (Ro 12:6-8)

The Need for Diversity in One Body – Verses 12-31

The Body and Its Many Members – Verses 12-26

- Like the human body, the body of Christ is One – verse 12 (Ro 12:4-5)
- Baptized by one Spirit into One Body & drink from One Spirit – verse 13
- No member can say that they are not important – verses 14-20
- No member can say that others are not important – verse 21-26

Summary of the Illustration of the Body

- You are the body of Christ, and individual members – verse 27
- God appointed different function in the church – verse 28
- Not everyone has the same function – verses 29-30
- Eagerly desire the greater gift – verse 31