

## **One Body, Many Members**

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

Paul instructs on order in exercising spiritual gifts so not bringing division.

*12 For 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, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to **drink** of one Spirit.*

Body/Church has many parts. No life for parts outside the body, yet the body can function w/o parts, yet limited in Gods ideal function. One exception, it can't exist w/o the Head (Christ). **Body mentioned 16 times 12-27**

Years ago in Chicago Dr Craig a scientist lectured on the human body before the Medical Association of Chicago he said 'consider the average 150lb body of a man from its chemical aspect. It contains lime enough to whitewash a fair sized chicken coop, sugar enough to fill a small shaker, iron enough to make a ten-penny nail, plus water. The total value of these ingredients is 98 cents or 60 cents per 100 weight on the hoof.'

Body is temporary spirit is everything. **Body w/o spirit is dead**—Church-Body of Christ is a spiritual work. Paul uses the physical body as a metaphor-symbol representing God's plan for His church-**spiritual work**

One body (church) many members (us). Members can't exist apart from body (no life, soon die). **Hand severed is useless**. Body doesn't function fully w/o each member. Although body can exist w/ missing members, Only 1 missing member where it ceases to exist—the head (Jesus).

All placed-*baptized*-into body by the Holy Spirit & made to *drink* (born again) **Holy Spirit places each person in the Body-church when born again.**

Once there was a carpenter's shop where all the tools gathered together to hold a meeting. Brother Hammer called the meeting to order. Several of the tools made a motion that he be dismissed from the meeting because he was too loud & noisy. Brother Hammer protested & said, 'If I have to leave the shop, then so does Brother Screw because he's lazy, you have to turn him around & around to get anything done. Then Brother Screw spoke up & said 'if you're gonna kick me out then Brother Plane needs to go too. He's shallow, all his work is on the surface he has no depth. Brother Plane objected & said 'I may be shallow but at least I don't size everyone up like Brother Ruler who is always measuring everyone as if he's the only one who is measures up.

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Brother Ruler then complained saying 'If I have to go Brother Sandpaper needs to go too. He's irritating & grates on people always rubbing others the wrong way. As contention & division grew, in walked the Carpenter of Nazareth. He arrived to start the day's work. Putting on His apron, He went to the workbench & began to build a pulpit from which to preach the gospel. He used the Hammer, the Screw, the Plane, the Ruler, the Sandpaper, in fact He used all the tools in the shop. After the day's work & completion of the project Brother Saw arose & declared "Brethren, I perceive that all of us are workers together w/ our Master & equally important for the Lord's work, let us joyfully put ourselves in His hands to be used as He sees fit.

*14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?*

If whole body were an eye it would be weird Cyclops-roll big eyeball on stage. If only one member we lose function of body—**mummy-hop out 'hello I'm the church'**.

Paul deals w/ a sense of not belonging. One member **jealous** or **disliking** or **resentful** of other members. **Feet** resentful-hardly ever seen, in shoes all day-hidden-dark, **my life stinks**. But holds weight of body. **Hand**, gets to do all cool stuff-**Shaka, raise hands in worship--never say lets raise feet-touch, expressive, creative**. If at odds--uncoordinated body. **Drill finger**.

If jealous ear not eye—have extra eye where ear should be **or** ear for eye. To covet someone's gift & neglect my own, handicaps the entire body & limits the ability to function.

God is the Spirit & He places as He desires. Gives incredible sense of belonging and purpose in life **MH 'when we take God for our God, we take His people for our people'**

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Unity w/ diversity everyone counts—dangerous to stifle variety to conformity. Jesus movement in early 70's was a protest against dead orthodoxy but when diversity ceases we end up 4 stages Man then movement then machine, then monument—*good old days* but stifling creativity you become like very thing protested against--new ideas. But w/ discernment & moderation or else anarchy--everyone does what is right in own mind. *ATM machine.*

*20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly/unpresentable members come to have more abundant seemliness/special modesty, 24 whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

*I have no need of you*-schizophrenic/paranoia—fighting/hating self. Instead weaker give more honor—most important parts of body are hidden yet essential to function. Behind the scenes ministries makes the church what it is. Intercessory prayer—nursery—SS--campus care. We spend lots of time on superficial things-*hair/makeup/shave/etc* look presentable in public.

Hidden parts lungs, heart, kidneys, etc-more necessary. *C Everett Koop former US surgeon general operated on Martin Lloyd Jones open heart surgery 'I held your beating heart in my hands' Jones 'And I trust you found it deceitful and desperately wicked'*

## **One Body, Many Members**

### **1Corinthians 12:12-31**

We look after members in need who are hurting, in pain because of loss or ready to give up, throw in the towel. We comfort, encourage, bear w/ them in their unseemly/weak moments. *Aaron/Hur ministry.*

That there be no division, same care – Jesus saw those in crowd w/ greatest need *Mk 3:1,2 man w/ withered hand.*

Whether suffering or honored we are together—no one can be part of the church & separate from the body. No part is unimportant--Big toe can't exist on its own it gives balance, stability and direction to body

*27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.*

Some feel they need to be recognized, be in the limelight (*miracle worker, healer*)-others feel inferior-behind the scenes not much to offer – no small gifts w/ God.

We can't say 'I don't need you' you're not like me/us—*surfer—craining, velvet lip, opulent blue happening.* You can't say *I don't need the church-* and say *too many hypocrites, boring, bunch of phonies.*

Can't say I'll be a Christian w/o the church--don't need it-*me & God.*

*Augustine 'He cannot have God for his Father who refuses to have the church for his mother.'*

***One Body, Many Members*****1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

Apostles-set apart & sent forth w/ spiritual authority 12 special 1-Taught by Jesus Acts 1:22 23 2-Witness resurrection 3-Foundation of church. Eph 2:20

Prophecy-fore-telling the will of God. Forth-telling aspect Agabus

Teaching-instructing disciples in the ways of the Lord to bring to maturity, building up. No growth w/o word.

Miracles or powers supersede natural order-walk water, dead raised,

Healings-cure physical diseases—heal emotions and diseased mind.

Helps-giving relief in any situation, bring support and relief.

Administrations-to steer a ship, direct traffic so things run smoothly

Tongues-ecstatic utterance in praising and exalting God. w/ interpretation.Ch14 Not all are....No!

What are best gifts? What gift is needed? Drill-wood, steel, concrete. Saw-crosscut, rip, hacksaw, hole saw-plug in SUP.

As pastor/teacher need word of wisdom, knowledge, prophetic. Desire greater gifts those that minister Jesus Christ to people.

**Communion**