

Believers Together – Discovering the Word of God – Thursday, December 19th, 2024.

One Body, Many Parts—1 Corinthians 12:12–31

Topics: Holy Spirit, Honor, Humility, Spiritual Gifts, Suffering, Unity

Open It

1. What functions in the church do you feel are most important? Why?

1 Corinthians 12:12–31 (ESV)

¹²For 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.

¹³For 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.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

¹⁵If 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.

¹⁶And 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.

¹⁷If 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?

¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be?

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

²¹The 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.”

²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

²³and 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,

²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,

²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

²⁸And 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.

²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Explore It

2. What makes Christians unified and dependent on one another? (12:13)
3. What lessons are there in seeing the church as a human body? (12:14–17)
4. Who arranged the parts of the body of Christ? (12:18)
5. How has God combined the members of the body of Christ? (12:24–26)
6. What functions are necessary in the body? (12:28–29)
7. Who appoints members of the body to their positions? Why is this significant? (12:28–29)
8. What are the greater gifts? (12:31)

Get It

9. How well do you interact with other members in the body of Christ?
10. How can you honor the contributions of others in your church?
11. What do you think are your personal responsibilities in the body of Christ?

Apply It

12. What would be the best way to use your unique abilities in the body of Christ this coming new year?