

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 3-THE ANALOGY OF THE BODY
1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

Introduction

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts for the work of the Church. Each Believer is given at least one gift. The gifts are diverse. Individual Believers with their diverse gifts make up the body of Christ. Each gift goes to work for the good of the whole body. The body is the local Church and that is what we are going to be considering in this message.

I. THE ANALOGY OF THE CHURCH AS A BODY. (12:12-13) (Ephesians 2:16; 4:4-5, 16; Colossians 1:18; 2:19)

Here we see the body of Christ compared to the human body. Each part of your body has a specific function that is necessary to the body as a whole!

Your different body parts are different for a purpose!

While the differences between the various parts of the body are many and varied, each part of the body must work together in unity with the other parts of the body to carry out the functions of the body that are needed and determined by the head.

A. All The Saved Are Baptized Into The Body Of Christ By The Holy Spirit.

B. The Local Church Is The Manifestation Of The Body.

1. The body of Christ calls to mind the human body of Christ.
2. The local Church today is the vehicle for doing what Christ did in His human body.

II. THE MAKEUP OF THE BODY. (12:14)

It has many members! Let me interject here that we must avoid two common errors when it comes to Spiritual gifts:

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A. Debasement.

Thinking that because we don't have the gifts that others have then we must have nothing to give to the body of believers.

B. Pride.

Being too proud of our abilities because we are gifted in some way that others in the body are not. Thinking that your gift is more important than someone else's is spiritual pride!

III. CHURCH PROBLEMS ARE ILLUSTRATED BY THE FOOT AND HAND. (12:15)

A. The Foot Represents A Member With An Inferiority Complex.

B. He Is Convinced That He Is Inferior Because He Does Not Have A Particular Gift.

C. Consider The Carnal Condition Of The Corinthians And The Fact That This Section Is Dealing With Problems Related To Gifts.

IV. CHURCH PROBLEMS ARE ILLUSTRATED BY THE EYE AND THE EAR. (12:16-17)

A. One Is Not Satisfied With His Particular Function.

B. Diversity Is Needed For The Proper Function Of The Body.

C. Consider The Absurdity Of Members Of The Church Trying To Be What They Are Not!

V. MEMBERS ARE PLACED WITHIN THE BODY AT GOD'S DISCRETION. (12:18)

A. Each Member Is Given His Gift By God.

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- B. To Be Envious Of Another's Gift Is To Question God.**
- C. To Use A Gift To Draw Attention To Self Is Sinful.**