

One Body—Many Members

1 Corinthians 12:4-27

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

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Introduction

- The complexity of an automobile
- The human body is the most complex of God's creation

One Body—Many Members

A. The Church ALIVE: Spirit Baptism—12:12-13, 27

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13-- *"For the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and all have been made to drink into one Spirit."*
 - 1 Corinthians 12:27-- *"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."*
1. **Baptism with the Spirit results in the indwelling of the Spirit.**
 - Matthew 3:11-- *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."*
 - Romans 8:9b-- *"if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."*
 2. **Baptism occurs at the moment of salvation—not the result of a "second blessing".**
 3. **Baptism with the Spirit makes us members of His body.**
 4. **Baptism with the Spirit results in the Spirit's filling.**
 - John 7:38-39-- *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."*
 - Ephesians 5:18-- *"And do not get drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit"*
 - Ephesians 5:19-21-- *"speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God."*
 - Galatians 5:22-23-- *"love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*

B. The Church as a LIVING ORGANISM with both unity and diversity (The Church as an ORGANIZATION)

- 1 Corinthians 14:30-31, 33-- *"if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and be encouraged....For God is not the author of confusion but of peace."*
 - 1 Corinthians 14:40-- *"Let all things be done decently and in order."*
1. **One Body**
 - a. **The Source of our Unity**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6-- *"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all."*
 - Ephesians 4:3-- *"endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"*
 - Ephesians 4:4-6-- *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*
 - b. **Not uniformity but unity**
 2. **Many Members**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-- *"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ"*
 - 1 Corinthians 12:14-- *"For in fact the body is not one member but many."*

- a. **Each believer has a particular function to perform, and therefore is absolutely necessary for the health of the Church.**
- 1 Corinthians 12:14-20-- *"For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He pleases. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body."*
- 1) **Reasons people feel that they do not "fit"**
 - a) Gift Projection
 - b) Gift Elevation
 - 2) **Paul's counter to such an attitude**
 - a) **He challenges our thinking**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:15-16-- *"If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body?"*
 - b) **Every believer has a function to perform**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:17-- *"If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?"*
 - c) **Function is determined by God**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:18-- *"But now God has set the members, each one of the in the body, just as He pleased."*
 - d) **Failing to function destroys the body.**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:19-- *"And if they were all one member, where would the body be?"*
- b. **As a member of the body, we should treat other members in such a way as to promote unity and equal concern.**
- 1 Corinthians 12:21-26-- *"And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; not again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it; that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."*
- 1) **Wrong Attitude Expressed: "Don't need you!"**
 - 2) **Practical ways of working together and promoting unity**
 - a) **Viewing the dispensable as indispensable**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:22-- *"those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary."*
 - b) **Appreciate the unappreciated.**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:23a-- *"those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor."*
 - c) **Make presentable the unrepresentable.**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:23b-- *"and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty."*
 - d) **No special treatment of the presentable parts.**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:24-- *"but our presentable parts have no need."*
 - 3) **Right Attitude Expressed: Equal Concern**