



14: Many Instruments. One Song. (1 Cor 12)
The Church of Jesus is supposed to be a spiritual symphony,
MANY INSTRUMENTS playing *ONE SONG*,
pointing others to the graciousness of our Great God.

beourguest

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teachingnotes

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VISUAL NOTES

Many symphonic instruments don't sound great by themselves for very long, but it's beautiful when **MANY INSTRUMENTS** work together to play **ONE SONG**.

Spiritual Gifts From the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1-3 (CSB) Now concerning **spiritual gifts**: brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware. You know that when you were pagans, you used to be enticed and led astray by mute idols. Therefore I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Paul doesn't want the Corinthians to remain ignorant about the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, but since many of them had been led astray by **pagan** practices and demonic influences in the past, Paul reminds Christians how to discern what is truly a work by **the Holy Spirit of God** and what is not.

Those led **by the Spirit** of God won't curse Jesus. People led by the Holy Spirit will proclaim that **Jesus is Lord**. Those who proclaimed that Jesus is Lord (sovereign ruler over all) were also proclaiming that Caesar was NOT lord over all. A person had to choose sides - some proclaimed **Jesus is Lord** while others declared **Jesus is cursed**.

Before Paul's radical conversion to follow Jesus, he persecuted those who claimed that Jesus was Lord because Paul actually believed that calling Jesus "Lord" was actually blasphemy. From his Jewish perspective, only Yahweh was Lord and Jesus was a false messiah. In fact, there was even a biblical reason why unbelieving Jews believed that Jesus was **cursed** by God.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23a (CSB) If anyone is found guilty of an offense deserving the death penalty and is executed, and you hang his body on a tree, you are not to leave his corpse on the tree overnight but are to bury him that day, for **anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse...**

Paul later understood why Jesus was hung on a tree in crucifixion.

Galatians 3:13 (CSB) **Christ redeemed us** from the curse of the law **by becoming a curse for us**, because it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.

Christ redeemed us - bought us and forgave us! And He sent His Spirit to live IN us and EMPOWER us to further His Kingdom.

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Different Gifts. Same God.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (CSB) Now there are different gifts, but the **same Spirit**. There are different ministries, but the **same Lord**. And there are different activities, but the **same God** works [*empowers* ESV] all of them in each person. A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good:

- Notice **the 3 PERSONS** of our Triune God: God the **Spirit**, God the Son (**Lord**), and the Father (**God**).
- Notice **the PURPOSE** of the different **gifts/ministries/activities - for the common good = for the benefit of all** [NET]. These are gifts are given to bless others, not benefit ourselves.

Gifted By the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (CSB) to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues.

- **MESSAGE OF WISDOM**: Do you know a believer who speaks with the wisdom of God?
- **MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE**: Have you ever known a Christian who is given insight into a situation that only God could give?
- **FAITH**: Have you ever met someone who just trusts God, in a way that you wish you could?
- **HEALING & MIRACLES**: Have you ever met someone who prays and God heals OR who is enabled to cast out a demon?
- **DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SPIRITS** is the God-given ability to discern what is truth from what is false, able to discern true teaching from false teaching, what is from God and what is counterfeit.
- **TONGUES** and the ability to **INTERPRET** are two of the most misunderstood giftings in our day. More about that next week and 1 Cor 14 (go read it yourself!).
- Two more gifts are mentioned in v 28 - **helping & leading**. Know some folks like that?

Many Instruments. One Song.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (CSB)

One and **the same Spirit is active in all these**, distributing to each person as He wills.

- The Spirit of God lives in follower of Jesus, and they have been GIFTED with the spiritual ability that the Spirit decided to give.
- Some people think that their gifting is either more important or less important than the gifting of others. But it is the **Spirit** who is **distributing to each person as He wills**.

MANY PARTS, ONE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (CSB)

For just as **the body** is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are **one body**—so also is Christ. For **we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and **we were all given one Spirit to drink**.

The language Paul chooses could be because of the influence of the Corinthian temple complex of **Asclepius**, the god of healing.

The human **body** has **many parts**, and the Church is made up of **many** who are **one body** - the Body of **Christ**.

Baptism isn't supposed to be optional for the follower of Jesus. Baptism is the first step of obedience, the moment when the new believer announces, "Jesus is Lord!" over their lives. Physical baptism is an expression of the spiritual reality that we have been **baptized by one Spirit** - we have died to sin and been made alive in **Christ**. Because of that, regardless of race (**Jews** or **Greeks**), or social status (**slaves** or **free**), we are **ONE BODY** - one family in Christ.

We are **many**, but we are a **ONE BODY** - MANY INSTRUMENTS, but only ONE SONG - the song of the redeemed from every tribe, nation, and language. And all believers, regardless of their function, are important to the BODY of Christ.

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All Believers Matter in the Body

1 Corinthians 12:14-24a (CSB)

Indeed, the body is not one part but many. If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," it is not for that reason any less a part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, **God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as He wanted.** And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but **one body**.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" Or again, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable. And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, which our respectable parts do not need.

God has arranged each of the parts in the human body just as He wanted. So too, God has also arranged each one of the parts in the body just as He wanted within His Church.

MANY INSTRUMENTS that work together to play...**ONE SONG**. The brass can't tell the woodwinds they don't matter and aren't needed, any more than the many parts of the human body can reject each other.

No Divisions Among Church Family

1 Corinthians 12:24b-26 (CSB)

Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, so that there would be no division in the body, but that **the members would have the same concern for each other**. So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

We are to treat everyone in this Church with VALUE - the youngest to the oldest.

- When one person in our Church body hurts, we hurt with them...because we're attached to each other. And we desire to serve and comfort our brothers & sisters.
- When one person in our Church body rejoices, we rejoice with them too...because we're attached to each other!

The Big Crescendo

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 (CSB)

Now **you [plural] are the body of Christ**, and individual members of it. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, leading, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.

Do all have the same gifts? NOPE! God has given us **MANY INSTRUMENTS** to play **ONE SONG** pointing others to the graciousness of our Great God!

?BIG QUESTIONS?

- ① **Are you part of the BODY of Christ?** Have you turned from your sin & trusted Jesus? Are you following Jesus and...are you involved in the life of His Church? Plug into one of our GROUPS on campus on Sundays (10am) or Wednesdays (6:30pm).
- ② **Do you know what your gift is and are you using it well?** Next week = a more detailed explanation about these gifts and a tool to help discern how God has gifted you and how you can put your gift to work to further the Kingdom.

WRITE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain your answer.
2. **Read 1 Cor 12:4-11, 28-30.** Which one of the spiritual gifts interests you the most? Explain your answer. (More info on this next Sunday.)
3. **Read 1 Cor 12:11.** Who determines the different gifts that different Christians have and why should we not covet the gift another person has been given?
4. **Read 1 Cor 12:12-13.** Why should we make sure not to separate the Church based on race or social class? We might have some differences, but we should focus on what unites us - *WHAT IS THAT?*
5. How should we respond when people within our Church are mistreating one another - acting as if others don't matter?
6. **Read 1 Cor 12:14-25.** Why are different parts on the human body a good illustration for different gifts within the Church Body?
7. **Read 1 Cor 12:25-26.** How have you seen the Church body hurt with other Christians who hurt and rejoice with those who rejoice? How can we better care for one another during difficult times? How can we better celebrate the accomplishments of our brothers and sisters?
8. What other questions has this teaching or discussion prompted for us to talk about?
9. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**